

Swastika

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Swastika \(disambiguation\)](#).



A *swastika* is a symbol found in many cultures, with different meanings, drawn in different styles.

The **swastika** (as a character 卐 or 卍) is an ancient religious [icon](#) used in the [Indian subcontinent](#), [East Asia](#) and [Southeast Asia](#), where it has been and remains a sacred symbol of spiritual principles in [Buddhism](#), [Hinduism](#), and [Jainism](#).^{[1][2][3][4]} In the Western world, it was historically a symbol of auspiciousness and good luck,^[5] but in the 1930s, it became the main feature of [Nazi symbolism](#) as an emblem of [Aryan race](#) identity, and as a result, it has become stigmatized in the West by association with ideas of [racism](#), hate, and mass murder.^{[5][6]}

The swastika is an icon widely found in human history and the modern world.^{[4][7]} It is alternatively known in various European languages as the **Hakenkreuz**, **gammadion cross**, **cross cramponnée**, **croix gammée**, **fylfot**, or **tetraskelion**, and in Japan as the **Manji**. A swastika generally takes the form of a rotationally symmetrical arrangement (a [cross](#)) with four equally spaced legs of identical length each bent at 90 degrees in a uniform direction to create a pattern akin to a four-armed spiral.^{[8][9]} It is found in the archeological remains of the [Indus Valley Civilization](#) and [Mesopotamia](#), as well as in early [Byzantine](#) and [Christian artwork](#).^{[4][7]}

The name *swastika* comes from [Sanskrit](#) ([Devanagari](#): [स्वस्तिक](#)), and denotes a "conducive to well being or auspicious".^{[10][7]} In Hinduism, the clockwise symbol is called *swastika* symbolizing [surya](#) (sun) and prosperity, while the counterclockwise symbol is called *sauvastika* symbolizing night or [tantric](#) aspects of [Kali](#).^[7] In Jainism, a swastika is the symbol for [Suparshvanatha](#) – the 7th of 24 Tirthankaras (spiritual teachers and saviours), while in Buddhism it symbolizes the auspicious footprints of the [Buddha](#).^{[7][11][12]}

[The swastika was adopted by several organizations in pre–World War I Europe](#) and later, and most notably, by the [Nazi Party](#) and [Nazi Germany](#) prior to World War II. It was used by the Nazi Party to symbolize German nationalistic pride. To Jews and the enemies of Nazi Germany, it became a symbol of antisemitism and terror.^[5] In many Western countries, the swastika is viewed as a symbol of racial supremacy and intimidation because of its association with [Nazism](#).^{[6][13][14]} The reverence for the *swastika* symbol, in some cultures in contrast to the stigma in others, has led to misinterpretations, misunderstandings, and mutual accusations.^{[15][16]}

Contents

- 1 [Etymology and nomenclature](#)
- 2 [Appearance](#)
 - 2.1 [Written characters](#)
- 3 [Hypothesis of origin](#)
- 4 [Prehistory](#)
- 5 [Historical use](#)

- 5.1_Asia
- 5.2_Europe
- 5.3_Africa
- 6_Early 20th century
 - 6.1_Europe
 - 6.2_Swedish
 - 6.3_North America
- 7_Nazism
 - 7.1_Use in Nazism
 - 7.2_Use by anti-Nazis
 - 7.3_Post–World War II stigmatization
- 8_Contemporary use
 - 8.1_Central Asia
 - 8.2_East and Southeast Asia
 - 8.3_Indian subcontinent
 - 8.4_New religious movements
- 9_Western misinterpretation of Asian use
- 10_See also
- 11_References
- 12_Sources
- 13_Further reading
- 14_External links

Etymology and nomenclature

The word *swastika* has been in use in English since the 1870s, replacing *gammadion* (from [Greek](#) γαμμάδιον). It is alternatively spelled in contemporary texts as *svastika*,^[17] while in the 19th- and early 20th-century, alternate spellings such as *suastika* were occasionally used.^[18] It was derived from the [Sanskrit](#) term ([Devanagari](#): [स्वस्तिक](#)), which is transliterated *svastika* under the commonly used IAST transliteration system, but is pronounced closer to "swastika" when letters are used with their English values. The first attested use of the word *swastika* in a European text is found in 1871 with the publications of [Heinrich Schliemann](#), who while crudely digging the [Hisarlik mound](#) near the [Aegean Sea](#) coast, for the lost history of Troy (Trojan war), discovered over 1,800 ancient samples of the *swastika* symbol and its variants. Schliemann linked his findings to the Sanskrit *swastika*.^{[13][19][20]}

The word *swastika* is derived from the Sanskrit root *swasti* which is composed of *su*, meaning "good, well", and *asti* meaning "it is, there is".^[21] The word *swasti* occurs frequently in the [Vedas](#), and it means "well, good, auspicious, luck, success, prosperity".^{[22][23]} *Swastika* is a derived word and connotes a form of welcome or a sign of something "associated with well-being".^[22] According to [Monier-Williams](#), a majority of scholars consider it a solar symbol, and in the ancient Indian texts the base *swasti* is equivalent to "may it be well with thee! hail! health! adieu! so be it!".^[22] The sign implies something fortunate, lucky or auspicious, and when applied to entrances, doors, mandalas or object it denotes or reminds of auspiciousness or well-being.^[22]

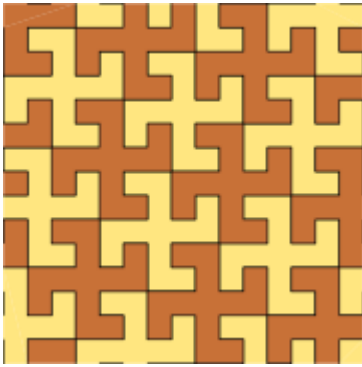
The earliest known textual use of the word *swastika* is in [Panini's](#) *Ashtadhyayi*, where it is used to explain one of the Sanskrit grammar rules, in the context of a type of identifying mark on cow's ear.^[21] Most scholarship suggests Panini lived in or before mid 4th-century BCE (*floruit*),^{[24][25]} possibly in 6th or 5th century BCE.^{[26][27]}

Other names for the symbol include:

- *hooked cross* (German: Hakenkreuz), *angled cross* (*Winkelkreuz*) or *crooked cross* (*Krummkreuz*).
- *cross cramponned*, *cramponnée*, or *cramponny*, in [heraldry](#), as each arm resembles a [Crampon](#) or angle-iron ([German](#): Winkelmaßkreuz).
- *fylfot*, chiefly in heraldry and architecture.

- *gammadion*, *tetragammadion* (Greek: τετραγαμμάδιον), or *cross gammadion* ([Latin](#): *crux gammata*; French: croix gammée), as each arm resembles the [Greek letter](#) Γ (*gamma*).^[8]
- *tetraskelion* (Greek: τετρασκέλιον), literally meaning "four-legged", especially when composed of four conjoined legs (compare [triskelion](#) [Greek: τρισκέλιον]).^[28]
- *whirling logs* (Navajo, native american): can denote abundance, prosperity, healing, and luck.^[29]

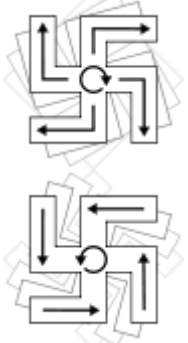
Appearance



Swastika [tessellation](#).



Left: a left facing swastika, also called counterclockwise, appears in the [Bon](#) tradition; Right: a right facing swastika, typically called clockwise, appears commonly in Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.^{[30][31]}



Left: Clockwise rotating swastika; Right: Counterclockwise rotating swastika

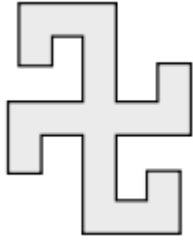
Although all swastikas are bent crosses based on a [chiral symmetry](#), they appear with different [geometric](#) details: as compact crosses with short legs, as crosses with large arms and as motifs in a pattern of unbroken lines. One distinct representation of a swastika, as a double swastika or swastika made of squares, appears in a Nepalese silver mohar coin of 1685, kingdom of Patan (NS 805) KM# 337^[32]

Chirality describes an absence of [reflective symmetry](#), with the existence of two versions that are [mirror images](#) of each other. The mirror-image forms are typically described as:

- left-facing (卐) and right-facing (卍);
- left-hand (卐) and right-hand (卍).

The left-facing version is distinguished in some traditions and languages as a distinct symbol from the right-facing "swastika", and is more correctly called the "[sauwastika](#)".

The compact swastika can be seen as a chiral irregular [icosagon](#) (20-sided [polygon](#)) with fourfold (90°) [rotational symmetry](#). Such a swastika proportioned on a 5×5 square grid and with the broken portions of its legs shortened by one unit can [tile the plane](#) by [translation](#) alone. The Nazi *Hakenkreuz* used a 5×5 diagonal grid, but with the legs unshortened.^[33]



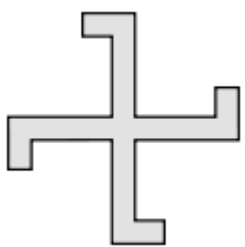
•
Croix gammée



•
Kruszwica's swastika



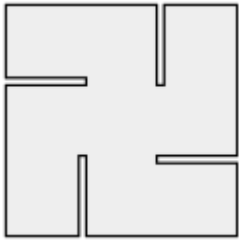
•
Broken [sun cross](#)



•
[Fylfot](#)



•
Crux hamata



•
Manji



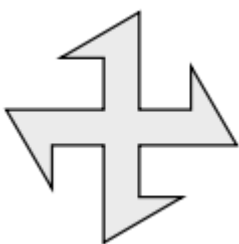
•
Hakenkreuz



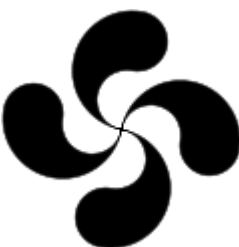
•
[Sauwastika](#)



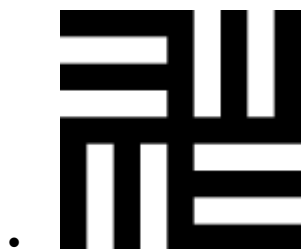
•
Gammadion cross



•
Cross cramponnée



•
[Lauburu](#)



Double-arm swastika

Written characters

The sauwastika were adopted as a standard character in [Sanskrit](#). "卐" ([pinyin](#): *wàn*) and as such entered various other [East Asian languages](#), including [Chinese script](#). In Japanese the symbol is called "卍" ([Hepburn](#): *manji*) or "卍字" (*manji*).

The sauwastika is included in the [Unicode](#) character sets of two languages. In the Chinese block it is U+534D 卐 (left-facing) and U+5350 for the swastika 卍 (right-facing);^[34] The latter has a mapping in the original [Big5](#) character set,^[35] but the former does not (although it is in Big5+^[36]). In Unicode 5.2, two swastika symbols and two sauwastikas were added to the [Tibetan block](#): swastika U+0FD5 RIGHT-FACING SVASTI SIGN, U+0FD7 RIGHT-FACING SVASTI SIGN WITH DOTS, and sauwastikas U+0FD6 LEFT-FACING SVASTI SIGN, U+0FD8 LEFT-FACING SVASTI SIGN WITH DOTS.^[37]

Hypothesis of origin



A 3,200 year old swastika necklace excavated from [Marlik](#), [Gilan](#) province, northern [Iran](#)

The swastika is a repeating design, said to have been created by the edges of the reeds in a square basket-weave. Other theories attempt to establish a connection via [cultural diffusion](#) or an explanation along the lines of [Carl Jung's collective unconscious](#).^[citation needed]

Ancient Roman mosaics of [La Olmeda](#), Spain.



Mosaic swastika in excavated Byzantine (?) church in [Shavei Tzion](#) (Israel)

European hypotheses of the swastika are often treated in conjunction with [cross symbols](#) in general, such as the [sun cross](#) of pagan [Bronze Age religion](#). Beyond its certain presence in the "[proto-writing](#)" symbol systems, such as the [Vinca script](#),^[38] which appeared during the [Neolithic](#),^[39] nothing certain is known about the symbol's origin.

There are a number of speculative hypotheses. One hypothesis is that the cross symbols and the swastika share a common origin in simply symbolizing the [sun](#). Another hypothesis is that the four arms of the cross represent four aspects of nature - the sun, wind, water, soil. Some have said the four arms of cross are four seasons, where the division for 90-degree sections correspond to the [solstices](#) and [equinoxes](#).^{[[citation needed](#)]}

According to Reza Assasi, the swastika is a geometric pattern in the sky representing the north [ecliptic pole](#) centred to [Zeta Draconis](#). He argues that this primitive astrological symbol was later called the four-horse chariot of [Mithra](#) in ancient [Iran](#) and represented the centre of Ecliptic in the star map and also demonstrates that in [Iranian mythology](#), the cosmos was believed to be pulled by four heavenly horses revolving around a fixed centre on clockwise direction possibly because of a geocentric understanding of an astronomical phenomenon called [axial precession](#). He suggests that this notion was transmitted to the west and flourished in Roman [mithraism](#) in which this symbol appears in Mithraic iconography and astrological representations.^{[[40](#)]}

[Carl Sagan](#) in his book *Comet* (1985) reproduces [Han period](#) Chinese manuscript (the *Book of Silk*, 2nd century BC) that shows comet tail varieties: most are variations on simple comet tails, but the last shows the comet nucleus with four bent arms extending from it, recalling a swastika. Sagan suggests that in antiquity a [comet](#) could have approached so close to Earth that the jets of gas streaming from it, bent by the comet's rotation, became visible, leading to the adoption of the swastika as a symbol across the world.^{[[41](#)]} Bob Kobres in his 1992 paper *Comets and the Bronze Age Collapse* contends that the swastika like comet on the Han Dynasty silk comet atlas was labeled a "long tailed pheasant star" (Di-Xing) because of its resemblance to a bird's foot or footprint,^{[[42](#)]} the latter comparison also being drawn by J.F.K. Hewitt's observation on page 145 of *Primitive Traditional History: vol. 1*.^{[[43](#)]} as well as an article concerning carpet decoration in *Good Housekeeping*.^{[[44](#)]} Kobres goes on to suggest an association of mythological birds and comets also outside China.^{[[42](#)]}

In *Life's Other Secret* (1999), [Ian Stewart](#) suggests the ubiquitous swastika pattern arises when parallel waves of neural activity sweep across the [visual cortex](#) during states of altered consciousness, producing a swirling swastika-like image, due to the way quadrants in the field of vision are mapped to opposite areas in the brain.^{[[45](#)]}

[Alexander Cunningham](#) suggested that the Buddhist use of the shape arose from a combination of [Brahmi](#) characters abbreviating the words *su asti*.^{[[22](#)]}

Prehistory



The petroglyph with swastikas, [Gegham mountains](#), [Armenia](#)^{[[46](#)]}



Swastika seals from the [Indus Valley Civilization](#) preserved at the [British Museum](#)

According to Mukti Jain, the symbol is part of "an intricate meander pattern of joined up swastikas" found on a late paleolithic figurine of a bird, carved from mammoth ivory, found in [Mezine](#), [Ukraine](#) and dated to 15,000 years old. These engraved objects were found near [phallic](#) objects, which states Jain may support the idea that the meandering pattern of swastika was a fertility symbol.^{[[47](#)]} However it

has also been suggested that this swastika may be a stylized picture of a [stork](#) in flight and not the true swastika that is in use today.^[48]



The [Samarra](#) bowl, at the [Pergamonmuseum](#), Berlin. The swastika in the center of the design is a reconstruction.^[49]



A photograph of the swastika stone on [Ilkley Moor](#), alongside its replica carving and the view it overlooks from Woodhouse Crag

In [England](#), neolithic or Bronze Age stone carvings of the symbol have been found on [Ilkley Moor](#).

Mirror-image swastikas (clockwise and anti-clockwise) have been found on ceramic pottery in the [Devetashka cave](#), [Bulgaria](#), dated to 6,000 BCE.^[50]

Some of the earliest archaeological evidence of the swastika in the [Indian subcontinent](#) can be dated to 3,000 BCE.^[51] Investigators have also found seals with "mature and geometrically ordered" swastikas which date from prior to the [Indus Valley Civilization](#) (3300–1300 BCE). Their efforts have traced references to swastikas in the [Vedas](#) at about that time period. The investigators put forth the theory that the swastika traveled from India via [Tartar](#) trade routes through [Kamchatka](#) to [the Americas](#), where it appeared in both [Aztec](#) and [Mayan](#) civilizations. It also moved westward, according to these researchers, from India to [Finland](#), [Scandinavia](#), the [British Highlands](#) and other parts of [Europe](#).^[52]

Swastikas have also been found on pottery in archaeological digs in Africa, in the area of [Kush](#) and on pottery at the [Jebel Barkal](#) temples,^[53] in [Iron Age](#) designs of the northern [Caucasus](#) ([Koban culture](#)), and in [Neolithic China](#) in the [Majiabang](#),^[54] [Majiayao](#),^[55] [Dawenkou](#) and [Xiaoheyuan](#) cultures.^[56]

Other Iron Age attestations of the swastika can be associated with [Indo-European](#) cultures such as the [Illyrians](#),^[57] [Indo-Iranians](#), [Celts](#), [Greeks](#), [Germanic peoples](#) and [Slavs](#). In [Sintashta culture](#)'s "[Country of Towns](#)", ancient [Indo-European](#) settlements in southern [Russia](#), it has been found a great concentration of some of the oldest swastika patterns. Chief archeologist [Gennady Zdanovich](#) identifies the swastika as a "symbol of the universe".^[58]

The swastika is also seen in Egypt during the Coptic period. Textile number T.231-1923 held at the V&A Museum in London includes small swastikas in its design. This piece was found at Qau-el-Kebir, near Asyut, and is dated between AD 300 and 600.^{[59][60]}

The *Tierwirbel* (the German for "animal whorl" or "whirl of animals"^[61]) is a characteristic motif in Bronze Age Central Asia, the [Eurasian Steppe](#), and later also in Iron Age [Scythian](#) and [European](#) ([Baltic](#)^[62] and [Germanic](#)) culture, showing rotational symmetric arrangement of an [animal motif](#), often

four birds' heads. Even wider diffusion of this "Asiatic" theme has been proposed, to the Pacific and even North America (especially [Moundville](#)).^[63]

Historical use



Swastikas stamped at [a temple](#) of [Jainism](#).

Asia

In [Asia](#), the swastika symbol first appears in the archaeological record around^[51] 3000 BCE in the [Indus Valley Civilization](#).^{[64][65]} It also appears in the Bronze and Iron Age cultures around the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. In all these cultures the swastika symbol does not appear to occupy any marked position or significance, but appears as just one form of a series of similar symbols of varying complexity. In the Zoroastrian religion of Persia, the swastika was a symbol of the revolving sun, infinity, or continuing creation.^{[66][67]}

It is one of most common symbols found on Mesopotamian coins.^[7]

The icon has been of spiritual significance to Indian religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.^{[4][7]} The use of the swastika by the [Bön](#) faith of [Tibet](#), as well as Chinese [Taoism](#), can also be traced to Buddhist influence. In [Thailand](#), the word *Sawaddi* is normally used as a greeting which simply means "hello"; Sawaddi-ka (feminine) and Sawaddi-krup (masculine). *Sawaddi* derives from the Sanskrit word *swasti* and its meaning is a combination of the words *prosperity*, *luck*, *security*, *glory*, and *good*.^[citation needed]

Hinduism



A swastika is typical in Hindu temples. Left: Goa Lawah Hindu temple entrance in [Bali](#) Indonesia; Right: A Hindu temple in [Rajasthan](#), India.

The swastika is an important Hindu symbol.^{[4][7]} The word is ancient, derived from three Sanskrit roots "su" (good), "asti" (exists, there is, to be) and "ka" (make) and has meant a "making of goodness" or "marker of goodness".^[1] The icon connotes and reminds the viewer of something "conducive to well-being", "make good", prosperity and dharmic auspiciousness. The swastika symbol is commonly used

before entrances or on doorways of homes or temples, to mark the starting page of financial statements, and [mandala](#) constructed for rituals such as weddings or welcoming a new born.^{[71][68]}

In the diverse traditions within Hinduism, both the clockwise and counter-clockwise swastika are found, with different meaning. The clockwise or right hand icon is called swastika, while the counter clockwise or left hand is called sauvastika.^[71] The clockwise swastika is a solar symbol ([Surya](#)), mirroring the motion of Sun in India (the northern hemisphere) where it appears to enter from east, then south, exiting to the west.^[71] The counterclockwise sauvastika is less used, connotes the night and in tantric traditions it is an icon for goddess [Kali](#), the terrifying form of Devi Durga.^[71] The symbol also reminds and symbolizes activity, karma, motion, wheel, lotus in some contexts.^{[1][2]} Its symbolism for motion and sun may be from shared prehistoric cultural roots, according to Norman McClelland.^[69]

The Arya Samaj is of the opinion that *swastik* is 'OM' written in the ancient Brahmi script.^[citation needed]

Buddhism

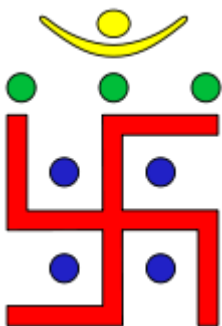


Buddha's footprint, 1st-century [Gandhara](#) (below toe)

In [Buddhism](#), the swastika symbol is considered auspicious footprints of the Buddha.^{[7][11]} It is an aniconic symbol for the Buddha in many parts of Asia, states Adrian Snodgrass, but also a homologous with the *dhamma wheel*.^[2] The shape symbolizes eternal cycling, a theme found in [samsara](#) doctrine of Buddhism.^[2]

The swastika symbol is common in esoteric tantric traditions of Buddhism, along with Hinduism, where it is found with [Chakra](#) theories and other meditative aids.^[68] The clockwise symbol is more common, and contrasts with the counter clockwise version common in the Tibetan Bon tradition and locally called *yungdrung*.^[70]

Jainism



Jain swastika

In [Jainism](#), it is a symbol of the seventh [tīrthaṅkara](#), [Suparśvanātha](#).^[7] In the [Śvētāmbara](#) tradition, it is also one of the [aṣṭamaṅgala](#) or eight auspicious symbols. All [Jain temples](#) and holy books must contain the swastika and ceremonies typically begin and end with creating a swastika mark several times with

rice around the altar. Jains use rice to make a swastika in front of statues and then put an offering on it, usually a ripe or dried fruit, a sweet ([Hindi](#): मिठाई *mīṭhāī*), or a coin or currency note. The four arms of the swastika symbolize the four places where a soul could be reborn in the cycle of birth and death – [svarga](#) "heaven", [naraka](#) "hell", *manushya* "humanity" or *tiryancha* "as flora or fauna" – before the soul attains [moksha](#) "salvation" as a [siddha](#), having ended the cycle of birth and death and become [omniscient](#).^[3]

East Asian traditions



Swastika on [Saisen box](#) in [Sensō Temple](#), [Asakusa](#), [Taitō](#), [Tokyo](#), Japan

The paired swastika symbols are included, at least since the [Liao Dynasty](#) (AD 907–1125), as part of the [Chinese writing system](#) (卍 and 卐) and are [variant characters](#) for 萬 or 万 (*wàn* in Mandarin, *man* in Korean, Cantonese, and Japanese, *van* in Vietnamese) meaning "all" or "eternity" (lit. [myriad](#)). The swastika marks the beginning of many Buddhist scriptures. In East Asian countries, the left-facing character is often used as symbol for Buddhism and marks the site of a Buddhist temple on maps.

In Chinese, Japanese, and Korean the swastika is also a homonym of the number 10,000, and is commonly used to represent the whole of creation, e.g. "the myriad things" in the [Dao De Jing](#). During the Chinese [Tang Dynasty](#), Empress [Wu Zetian](#) (684–704) decreed that the swastika would also be used as an alternative symbol of the Sun.



The Hachisuka swastika, a [family crest](#) used by the Japanese [Hachisuka](#) clan

When the [Chinese writing system](#) was introduced to Japan in the 8th century, the swastika was adopted into the Japanese language and culture. It is commonly referred as the *manji* (lit. "Man-character"). Since the Middle Ages, it has been used as a *mon* by various Japanese families such as [Tsugaru clan](#), [Hachisuka clan](#) or around 60 clans that belong to [Tokugawa clan](#).^[71] On [Japanese maps](#), a swastika (left-facing and horizontal) is used to mark the location of a Buddhist temple. The right-facing swastika is often referred to as the *gyaku manji* (逆卍, lit. "reverse swastika") or *migi manji* (右卍, lit. "right swastika"), and can also be called *kagi jūji* (鉤十字, literally "hook cross").

In [Chinese](#) and [Japanese](#) art, the swastika is often found as part of a repeating pattern. One common pattern, called *sayagata* in Japanese, comprises left- and right-facing swastikas joined by lines.^[72] As the negative space between the lines has a distinctive shape, the sayagata pattern is sometimes called the *key fret* motif in English.

As a pottery graph of unknown provision and meaning the swastika-like sign is known in Chinese Neolithic culture (2400–2000 BCE, Liu wan 柳灣, [Qinghai](#) province).

Armenia



[Khachkar](#) with swastikas [Sanahin](#), [Armenia](#)

In [Armenia](#) the swastika is called the "[arevakhach](#)" and "kerkhach" ([Armenian](#): կեռիսաչ)^{[73][*dubious* – *discuss*]} and is the ancient symbol of eternity and eternal light (i.e. God). Swastikas in [Armenia](#) were founded on petroglyphs from the copper age, predating the bronze age. During the bronze age it was depicted on [cauldrons](#), belts, [medallions](#) and other items.^[74] Among the oldest petroglyphs is the seventh letter of the Armenian alphabet – "E" (which means "is" or "to be") – depicted as a half-swastika.

Swastikas can also be seen on early Medieval churches and fortresses, including the principal tower in Armenia's historical capital city of [Ani](#).^[73] The same symbol can be found on [Armenian carpets](#), cross-stones ([khachkar](#)) and in medieval manuscripts, as well as on modern monuments as a symbol of eternity.^[75]

Europe

Swastika shapes have been found on numerous artifacts from [Iron Age](#) Europe – Armenian arevakhach ([Armenian](#): Արևախաչ, արև arev "sun" + խաչ "cross", "sun cross"),^{[73][76][77]} [Greco-Roman](#), [Illyrians](#),^[78] [Etruscan](#), [Baltic](#), [Celtic](#), [Germanic](#), and [Slavic](#).^[81]



[Etruscan](#) pendant with swastika symbols, [Bolsena](#), Italy, 700–650 BCE, [Louvre Museum](#)



Svastika on a Roman mosaic in [Pula](#), Croatia



Svastika on a Roman mosaic in [Veli Brijun](#), Croatia



Swastiska on the [Snoldelev Rune Stone](#), Denmark.

Greco-Roman antiquity

[Ancient Greek](#) architectural, clothing and coin designs are replete with single or interlinking swastika motifs. There are also gold plate [fibulae](#) from the 8th century BCE decorated with an engraved swastika.^[79] Related symbols in classical Western architecture include the cross, the three-legged triskele or [triskelion](#) and the rounded [lauburu](#). The swastika symbol is also known in these contexts by a number of names, especially *gammadion*,^[80] or rather the tetra-gammadion. The name *gammadion* comes from its being seen as being made up of four Greek gamma (Γ) letters. Ancient Greek architectural designs are replete with the interlinking symbol.

In [Greco-Roman](#) art and architecture, and in [Romanesque](#) and [Gothic art](#) in the West, isolated swastikas are relatively rare, and the swastika is more commonly found as a repeated element in a border or tessellation. The swastika often represented perpetual motion, reflecting the design of a rotating windmill or watermill. A meander of connected swastikas makes up the large band that surrounds the [Augustan Ara Pacis](#).

A design of interlocking swastikas is one of several [tessellations](#) on the floor of the [cathedral](#) of [Amiens](#), France.^[81] A border of linked swastikas was a common Roman architectural motif,^[82] and can be seen in more recent buildings as a neoclassical element. A swastika border is one form of [meander](#), and the individual swastikas in such a border are sometimes called [Greek keys](#). There have also been swastikas found on the floors of [Pompeii](#).^[83]



Swastika on a Greek silver [stater](#) coin from [Corinth](#), 6th century BCE



Bronze Age [Mycenaean](#) "doll" with human, solar and tetragammadion (swastika) symbols, [Louvre Museum](#)



Greek helmet with swastika marks on the top part (circled), 350-325 BC from [Taranto](#), found at [Herculaneum](#). [Cabinet des Médailles](#), Paris.



Two [sauwastikas](#) (opposite-facing swastikas) on an ancient Greek [kantharos](#), Attica, ca. 780 BCE

Celts

The bronze frontispiece of a ritual pre-Christian (c. 350–50 BCE) shield found in the [River Thames](#) near [Battersea Bridge](#) (hence "[Battersea Shield](#)") is embossed with 27 swastikas in bronze and red enamel.^[84] An [Ogham](#) stone found in English, [Co Kerry, Ireland](#) ([CIIC 141](#)) was modified into an early Christian gravestone, and was decorated with a [cross pattée](#) and two swastikas.^[85] The [Book of Kells](#) (ca. 800) contains swastika-shaped ornamentation. At the Northern edge of [Ilkley Moor](#) in [West Yorkshire](#), there is a swastika-shaped pattern engraved in a stone known as the [Swastika Stone](#).^[86]

Germanic Iron Age

Main article: [Swastika \(Germanic Iron Age\)](#)



A comb with a swastika found in [Nydam Mose](#), Denmark



Swastika symbols on the [Church of Christ Pantocrator](#) (13th–14th century) in [Nesebar](#), Bulgaria

The swastika shape (also called a *fylfot*) appears on various Germanic [Migration Period](#) and [Viking Age](#) artifacts, such as the 3rd-century [Værløse Fibula](#) from Zealand, Denmark, the [Gothic](#) spearhead from [Brest-Litovsk](#), today in [Belarus](#), the 9th-century [Snoldelev Stone](#) from [Ramsø](#), Denmark, and numerous Migration Period [bracteates](#) drawn left-facing or right-facing.^[87]

The [pagan Anglo-Saxon ship burial](#) at [Sutton Hoo](#), England, contained numerous items bearing the swastika, now housed in the collection of the [Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology](#).^[88]^[not in citation given] The swastika is clearly marked on a hilt and sword belt found at [Bifrons](#) in [Kent](#), in a grave of about the 6th century.

[Hilda Ellis Davidson](#) theorized that the swastika symbol was associated with [Thor](#), possibly representing his hammer [Mjolnir](#) – symbolic of thunder – and possibly being connected to the Bronze Age sun cross.^[88] Davidson cites "many examples" of the swastika symbol from Anglo-Saxon graves of the pagan period, with particular prominence on cremation urns from the cemeteries of East Anglia.^[88] Some of the swastikas on the items, on display at the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, are depicted with such care and art that, according to Davidson, it must have possessed special significance as a [funerary symbol](#).^[88] The [runic inscription](#) on the 8th-century [Sæbø sword](#) has been taken as evidence of the swastika as a symbol of Thor in [Norse paganism](#).

Illyrians

The swastika was widespread among the [Illyrians](#), symbolizing the Sun. The Sun cult was the main Illyrian cult; the Sun was represented by a swastika in clockwise motion, and it stood for the movement of the Sun.^[89]

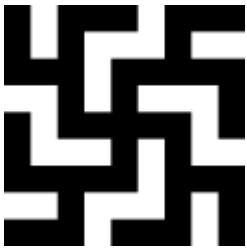
Slavic



Kolovrat or in Polish "Kołowrót" represents the Sun. It is familiar with almost every ancient Slavic culture.



Hands of God with swastikas



Thunder Cross, or Cross of Perun



Old Russian embroidery

According to painter [Stanisław Jakubowski](#) the "little sun" is an [Early Slavic](#) pagan symbol of the Sun. It was engraved on wooden monuments built near the final resting places of fallen Slavs to represent eternal life.^[90] The symbol was first seen in a collection of Early Slavic symbols and architectural features drawn and compiled by [Polish](#) painter Stanisław Jakubowski, which he named *Prasłowiańskie motywy architektoniczne* ([Polish](#): *Early Slavic Architectural Motifs*).^[90] His work was published in 1923, by a publishing house that was then based in the Dębniki district of [Kraków](#).^[90] The symbol can also be found on embroidery and pottery in most Slavic countries.



Swastika pattern on Russian Orthodox [Vestments](#)

In [Russia](#) before [World War I](#) the swastika was a favorite sign of the last Russian Empress [Alexandra Feodorovna](#). She placed it where she could for happiness, including drawing it in pencil on the walls and windows in the [Ipatiev House](#) - place of execution of the royal family, and, without dating, on the wallpaper above the bed, where obviously slept the heir.^[91] It was printed on some banknotes of the [Russian Provisional Government](#) (1917) and some [sovznaks](#) (1918-1922).^[92] In 1919 it was approved as insignia for the Kalmyk formations,^[93] and for a short period had a certain popularity amongst some artists, politics and army groups.^[94] Also it was present on [icons](#), [vestments](#) and [clerical clothing](#)^[95] but in World War II it was removed, becoming by association, a symbol of the German occupation.^[96]

In modern [Russia](#) some [neo-Nazis](#)^{[97][98]} and [neopagan](#) followers of pseudohistory argue that the Russian name of the swastika is *Kolovrat* (Russian: Коловрат, literally "[spinning wheel](#)"), but there are no ethnographic sources confirming this.^{[96][99]} In the traditional vernacular the swastika was called differently; for example, "breeze" – as in Christianity, the swastika represents a spiritual movement, descent of the Holy Spirit, and therefore the "wind" and "spirit" – a word with one meaning.^[96] Or "geeses", "ognevtsi" (dialect. "little flames"), "hares" (towel with a swastika was called as towel with the "hares"), "little horses", because it is such a curved cross.^{[95][96]}

The neo-Nazi [Russian National Unity](#) group's branch in [Estonia](#) is officially registered under the name "Kolovrat" and published an extremist newspaper in 2001 under the same name.^[97] A criminal investigation found the paper included an array of racial epithets. One Narva resident was sentenced to 1 year in jail for distribution of *Kolovrat*.^[100] The Kolovrat has since been used by the [Rusich Battalion](#), a Russian militant group known for its operation during the [War in Donbass](#).^[101]

Sami

An object very much like a hammer or a double axe is depicted among the magical symbols on the drums of [Sami](#) shamans, used in their religious ceremonies before Christianity was established. The name of the Sami thunder god was [Horagalles](#), thought to be derived from "Old Man Thor" (*Þórr karl*). Sometimes on the drums, a male figure with a hammer-like object in either hand is shown, and sometimes it is more like a cross with crooked ends, or a swastika.^[88]

Medieval and early modern Europe



Because the outer lines point to the left instead of the swastika's right point ends, this is referred to as a sauwastika. This pattern can be found in a Venetian palace that likely follows a Roman pattern, at Palazzo Roncale, [Rovigo](#)



A swastika composed of Hebrew letters as a mystical symbol from the Jewish [Kabbalistic](#) work "Parashat Eliezer".

In Christianity, the swastika is used as a hooked version of the [Christian Cross](#), the symbol of Christ's victory over death. Some Christian churches built in the [Romanesque](#) and [Gothic](#) eras are decorated with swastikas, carrying over earlier Roman designs. Swastikas are prominently displayed in a [mosaic](#) in the St. Sophia church of [Kiev](#), Ukraine dating from the 12th century. They also appear as a repeating ornamental motif on a tomb in the Basilica of St. Ambrose in [Milan](#).^{[[citation needed](#)]}

A [ceiling](#) painted in 1910 in the church of St Laurent in [Grenoble](#) has many swastikas. It can be visited today because the church became the archaeological museum of the city. A proposed direct link between it and a swastika floor mosaic in the [Cathedral of Our Lady of Amiens](#), which was built on top of a pagan site at [Amiens](#), France in the 13th century, is considered unlikely. The [stole](#) worn by a priest in the 1445 [painting of the Seven Sacraments](#) by [Rogier van der Weyden](#) presents the swastika form simply as one way of depicting the cross.



Swastikas on the vestments of the effigy of Bishop [William Edington](#) (d. 1366) in [Winchester Cathedral](#)

Swastikas also appear in art and architecture during the [Renaissance](#) and [Baroque](#) era. The fresco *The School of Athens* shows an ornament made out of swastikas, and the symbol can also be found on the facade of the *Santa Maria della Salute*, a Roman Catholic church and minor basilica located at Punta della Dogana in the Dorsoduro sestiere of the city of [Venice](#).

In the Polish First Republic the symbol of the swastika was also popular with the nobility. According to chronicles, the [Rus'](#) prince [Oleg](#), who in the 9th century [attacked Constantinople](#), nailed his shield (which had a large red swastika painted on it) to the city's gates.^{[[102](#)]} Several noble houses, e.g. Boreyko, Borzym, and Radziechowski from Ruthenia, also had swastikas as their [coat of arms](#). The family reached its greatness in the 14th and 15th centuries and its crest can be seen in many heraldry books produced at that time. The swastika was also a heraldic symbol, for example on the [Boreyko coat of arms](#), used by noblemen in Poland and Ukraine. In the 19th century the swastika was one of the Russian empire's symbols; it was even placed in coins as a background to the [Russian eagle](#).^{[[103](#)][[104](#)]}

A swastika can be seen on stonework at [Valle Crucis Abbey](#), near [Llangollen](#).

Africa



Ashanti weight in Africa (left) and carved fretwork forming a swastika in the window of a Lalibela rock-hewn church in Ethiopia

The swastika can be found on [Ashanti](#) gold weights and among [adinkra symbols](#) in West Africa.^[105]

Early 20th century

Main article: [Western use of the swastika in the early 20th century](#)



Swastikas on the wedding dress as symbols of luck, British colony, 1910

In the Western world, the symbol experienced a resurgence following the archaeological work in the late 19th century of [Heinrich Schliemann](#), who discovered the symbol in the site of ancient [Troy](#) and associated it with the ancient migrations of [Proto-Indo-Europeans](#), whose proto-language was not coincidentally termed "Proto-Indo-Germanic" by German language historians. He connected it with similar shapes found on ancient pots in Germany, and theorized that the swastika was a "significant religious symbol of our remote ancestors", linking it to ancient [Teutons](#), Greeks of the time of [Homer](#) and Indians of the [Vedic](#) era.^{[106][107]} By the early 20th century, it was used worldwide and was regarded as a symbol of good luck and success.

The work of Schliemann soon became intertwined with the [völkisch](#) movements, for which the swastika was a symbol of the "[Aryan race](#)", a concept that came to be equated by theorists such as [Alfred Rosenberg](#) with a [Nordic master race](#) originating in northern Europe. Since its adoption by the [Nazi Party](#) of [Adolf Hitler](#), the swastika has been associated with Nazism, fascism, racism in its ([white supremacy](#)) form, the [Axis powers](#) in World War II, and [the Holocaust](#) in much of the West. The swastika remains a core symbol of Neo-Nazi groups.

The Benedictine choir school at [Lambach Abbey](#), Upper Austria, which Hitler attended for several months as a boy, had a swastika chiseled into the monastery portal and also the wall above the spring grotto in the courtyard by 1868. Their origin was the personal [coat of arms](#) of Abbot [Theoderich Hagn](#) of the monastery in Lambach, which bore a golden swastika with slanted points on a blue field.^[108] The Lambach swastika is probably of Medieval origin.

Europe

Britain



Theosophical Seal

In the 1880's the [Theosophical Society](#) adopted a swastika as part of its seal, along with an [Om](#), a hexagram or [star of David](#), an [Ankh](#) and an [Ouroboros](#). Unlike the much more recent [Raëlian movement](#), the Theosophical Society symbol has been free from controversy, and the seal is still used. The current seal also includes the text "There is no religion higher than truth."^[109] The British author and poet [Rudyard Kipling](#) used the symbol on the cover art of a number of his works, including [The Five Nations](#), 1903, which has it twinned with an elephant.

Denmark



Carlsberg's [Elephant Tower](#).

The Danish brewery company [Carlsberg Group](#) used the swastika as a logo^[110] from the 19th Century until the middle of the 1930s when it was discontinued because of association with the Nazi Party in neighbouring Germany. The swastika carved on elephants at the entrance gates of the company's headquarters in [Copenhagen](#) in 1901 can still be seen today.^[111]

Ireland

The [Swastika Laundry](#) was a laundry founded in 1912, located on Shelbourne Road, [Ballsbridge](#), a district of [Dublin](#), Ireland. In the fifties [Heinrich Böll](#) came across a van belonging to the company while he was staying in Ireland, leading to some awkward moments before he realized the company was older than Nazism and totally unrelated to it. The chimney of the boiler-house of the laundry still stands, but the laundry has been redeveloped.^{[112][113]}

Finland

In Finland the swastika was often used in traditional folk art products, as a decoration or magical symbol on textiles and wood. The swastika was also used by the [Finnish Air Force](#) until 1945, and is still used on air force flags.

The [tursaansydän](#) is used by [scouts](#) in some instances^[114] and a student organization.^[115] The village of Tursa uses the tursaansydän as a kind of a certificate of authenticity on products made there.^[116] Traditional textiles are still being made with swastikas as parts of traditional ornaments.

Finnish military



The aircraft roundel and insignia of the Finnish Air force from 1918–1945



The flag of the [Finnish Air Force Academy](#)



The Lotta Svärd emblem designed by [Eric Wasström](#) in 1921.

The [Finnish Air Force](#) used the swastika as an emblem, introduced in 1918. The type of swastika adopted by the air-force was the symbol of luck for the Swedish count [Eric von Rosen](#), who donated one of its earliest aircraft; he later became a prominent figure in the Swedish nazi-movement.

The swastika was also used by the women's paramilitary organization [Lotta Svärd](#), which was banned in 1944 in accordance with the [Moscow Armistice](#) between Finland and the [allied Soviet Union](#) and [Britain](#).

The [President of Finland](#) is the grand master of the [Order of the White Rose](#). According to the protocol, the president shall wear the Grand Cross of the White Rose with collar on formal occasions. The original design of the collar, decorated with 9 swastikas, dates from 1918, and was designed by the artist [Akseli Gallen-Kallela](#). The Grand Cross with the swastika collar has been awarded 41 times to foreign heads of state. To avoid misunderstandings, the swastika decorations were replaced by fir crosses at the decision of president [Urho Kekkonen](#) in 1963 after it became known that the [President of France Charles De Gaulle](#) was uncomfortable with the swastika collar.

Also a design by Gallen-Kallela from 1918, the [Cross of Liberty](#) has a swastika pattern in its arms. The Cross of Liberty is depicted in the upper left corner of the standard of the President of Finland.^[117]

In December 2007, a silver replica of the World War II period Finnish air defence's relief ring decorated with a swastika became available as a part of a charity campaign.^[118]

The original war time idea was that the public swap their precious metal rings for the State air defence's relief ring, made of iron.

Latvia



Latvian Air Force.

The swastika is an old [Baltic](#) thunder cross.^[119] Latvia adopted the swastika, called the [Pērkonkrusts](#) ("thunder cross"), for its Air Force in 1918/1919 and continued its use until 1940. The cross itself was maroon on a white background, mirroring the colors of the Latvian flag. Earlier versions pointed counter-clockwise, while later versions pointed clock-wise and eliminated the white background.^{[120][121]}

Poland

The traditional symbols of the Podhale Rifles include the [edelweiss](#) flower and the Mountain Cross, a swastika symbol popular in folk culture of the Polish mountainous regions. The units of Podhale Rifles, both historical and modern, are notable for their high morale and distinctive uniforms.

Swedish



ASEA logo prior to 1933.

The Swedish company [ASEA](#), now a part of [ABB](#), used a company [logo](#) featuring a swastika. The logo was replaced in 1933, when [Adolf Hitler](#) came to power in [Germany](#).

North America



Illustration of the [Horned Serpent](#) by artist [Herb Roe](#) based on an engraved shell cup from [Spiro, Oklahoma](#)



[Chilocco Indian Agricultural School](#) basketball team in 1909.



[Ferne Swastikas](#) women's hockey team, 1922



The old symbol of the 45th Infantry Division

The swastika motif is found in some traditional [Native American](#) art and iconography. Historically, the design has been found in excavations of [Mississippian](#)-era sites in the [Ohio](#) and [Mississippi River](#) valleys, and on objects associated with the [Southeastern Ceremonial Complex \(S.E.C.C.\)](#). It is also widely used by a number of [southwestern](#) tribes, most notably the [Navajo](#), and [plains nations](#) such as the [Dakota](#). Among various tribes, the swastika carries different meanings. To the [Hopi](#) it represents the wandering Hopi clan; to the Navajo it is one symbol for the whirling log (*tsil no'oli*), a sacred image representing a legend that is used in healing rituals.^[122] A brightly colored [First Nations](#) saddle featuring swastika designs is on display at the [Royal Saskatchewan Museum](#) in Canada.^[123]

A swastika shape is a symbol in the culture of the [Kuna people](#) of [Kuna Yala](#), Panama. In Kuna tradition it symbolizes the octopus that created the world, its tentacles pointing to the four cardinal points.^[124]

From 1909 to 1916, the K-R-I-T automobile, manufactured in Detroit, Michigan, used a right-facing swastika as their trademark.

In February 1925 the Kuna revolted vigorously against Panamanian suppression of their culture, and in 1930 they assumed autonomy. The flag they adopted at that time is based on the swastika shape, and remains the official flag of Kuna Yala. A number of variations on the flag have been used over the years: red top and bottom bands instead of orange were previously used, and in 1942 a ring (representing the traditional Kuna nose-ring) was added to the center of the flag to distance it from the symbol of the Nazi party.^[125]

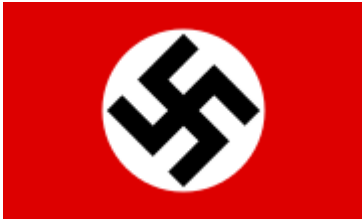
The symbol for the [45th Infantry Division of the United States Army](#), before the 1930s, was a red square with a yellow swastika, a tribute to the large Native American population in the southwestern United States.

The town of [Swastika, Ontario, Canada](#) is named after the symbol.

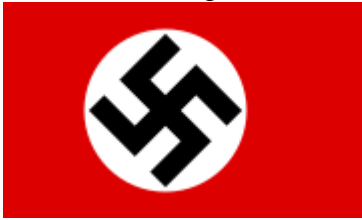
Nazism

Use in Nazism

Further information: [Nazi symbolism](#)



The NSDAP flag



The Third Reich flag

The Nazis showed a lot of interest in Indo-European history, even the NSDAP flag had the ancient Indian sign the swastika. It symbolized many things to the Europeans, with the most common symbolism being of good luck and auspiciousness.^[5] In the wake of [widespread popular usage](#), in [post-World War I Germany](#), the newly established [Nazi Party](#) formally adopted the *Hakenkreuz* (German: [*ˈhaːkn̩kr̩ʊʏts*], meaning "hooked-cross") in 1920. The emblem was a black swastika (hooks branching clockwise) rotated 45 degrees on a white circle on a red background. This insignia was used on the party's flag, badge, and armband.

In his 1925 work [Mein Kampf](#), Adolf Hitler writes that: "I myself, meanwhile, after innumerable attempts, had laid down a final form; a flag with a red background, a white disk, and a black swastika in the middle. After long trials I also found a definite proportion between the size of the flag and the size of the white disk, as well as the shape and thickness of the swastika."

When Hitler created a flag for the Nazi Party, he sought to incorporate both the swastika and "those revered colors expressive of our homage to the glorious past and which once brought so much honor to the German nation." (Red, white, and black were the colors of the [flag of the old German Empire](#).) He also stated: "As National Socialists, we see our program in our flag. In red, we see the social idea of the movement; in white, the nationalistic idea; in the swastika, the mission of the struggle for the victory of the [Aryan](#) man, and, by the same token, the victory of the idea of creative work."^[126]

The swastika was also understood as "the symbol of the creating, effecting life" (*das Symbol des schaffenden, wirkenden Lebens*) and as "race emblem of Germanism" (*Rasseabzeichen des Germanentums*).^[127]



[Indische Legion](#) and swastika, 1942

The use of the swastika was incorporated by Nazi theorists with their conjecture of Aryan cultural descent of the German people. The fascination of the German people with Aryanism arose when artifacts with swastikas on them were found near the Trojan city of Troy by Heinrich Schliemann. The Nazi party was looking for the symbol that would preferably catch the attention of all of Germany and the swastika had that potential. It became a symbol to unify the German people, to a conjecture about

their ancestors, Aryan identity and nationalistic pride. It also allowed the Nazi party to establish their anti-Semitic views, as well as terrify Jews and the enemies of the Nazi state.^[5]

The concept of [racial hygiene](#) was an ideology central to Nazism, though it is [scientific racism](#).^{[128][129]} For Alfred Rosenberg, the Aryans of India were both a model to be imitated and a warning of the dangers of the spiritual and racial "confusion" that, he believed, arose from the proximity of races. Thus, they saw fit to co-opt the sign as a symbol of the Aryan master race. The use of the swastika as a symbol of the Aryan race dates back to writings of [Emile Burnouf](#). Following many other writers, the German nationalist poet [Guido von List](#) believed it to be a uniquely Aryan symbol.^[citation needed]



Emblem of the Youth wing of the [Bulgarian](#) fascist organisation [Union of Bulgarian National Legions](#) with swastika

Before the Nazis, the swastika was already in use as a symbol of German *völkisch* nationalist movements ([Völkische Bewegung](#)). Ulric of England [sic] says

... what inspired Hitler to use the swastika as a symbol for the NSDAP was its use by the [Thule Society](#) (German: Thule-Gesellschaft) since there were many connections between them and the [DAP](#) ... from 1919 until the summer of 1921 Hitler used the special Nationalsozialistische library of Dr. Friedrich Krohn, a very active member of the *Thule-Gesellschaft* ... Dr. Krohn was also the dentist from Sternberg who was named by Hitler in *Mein Kampf* as the designer of a flag very similar to one that Hitler designed in 1920 ... during the summer of 1920, the first party flag was shown at Lake Tegernsee ... these home-made ... early flags were not preserved, the *Ortsgruppe München* (Munich Local Group) flag was generally regarded as the first flag of the Party.

— *Ulric of England, Deutschland Erwache*, [ISBN 0-912138-69-6](#)

José Manuel Erbez says:

The first time the swastika was used with an Aryan meaning was on December 25, 1907, when the self-named [Order of the New Templars](#), a secret society founded by [Adolf Joseph] [Jörg Lanz von Liebenfels](#), hoisted at Werfenstein Castle (Austria) a yellow flag with a swastika and four [fleurs-de-lys](#).^[130]

However, Liebenfels was drawing on an already established use of the symbol. On 14 March 1933, shortly after Hitler's appointment as Chancellor of Germany, the NSDAP flag was hoisted alongside Germany's national colors. It was adopted as the sole national flag on 15 September 1935.

The swastika was used for badges and flags throughout [Nazi Germany](#), particularly for government and military organizations, but also for "popular" organizations such as the *Reichsbund Deutsche Jägerschaft* (German Hunting Society).^[131]

While the DAP and the NSDAP had used both right-facing and left-facing swastikas, the right-facing swastika was used consistently from 1920 onwards. Ralf Stelter notes that the swastika flag used on land had a right-facing swastika on both sides, while the ensign (naval flag) had it printed through so that a left-facing swastika would be seen when looking at the ensign with the flagpole to the right.^[132] Nazi [ensigns](#) had a [through and through](#) image, so both versions were present, one on each side, but the [Nazi flag](#) on land was right-facing on both sides and at a 45° rotation.^[133]



Divisional insignia of the 5th SS Panzer Division *Wiking*



Divisional insignia of 11.SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer Grenadier-Division *Nordland*.

Several variants are found:

- a 45° black swastika on a white disc as in the NSDAP and national flags;
- a 45° black swastika on a white lozenge ([Hitler Youth](#)^[134]);
- a 45° black swastika with a white outline was painted [on the tail of aircraft](#) of the [Luftwaffe](#), and usually using a design based on a 25-small-square subdivided square template (width of "strokes" in each of its arms, equalling the width of the space between the strokes);
- a 45° black swastika outlined by thin white and black lines on a white disc (the German War Ensign^[135]);
- an upright black swastika outlined by thin white and black lines on a white disc ([Personal standard of Adolf Hitler](#) in which a gold wreath encircles the swastika; the *Schutzstaffel*; and the *Reichsdienstflagge*, in which a black circle encircles the swastika);
- small gold, silver, black, or white 45° swastikas, often lying on or being held by an eagle, on many badges and flags.^[136]
- a swastika with curved outer arms forming a broken circle, as worn by the [Waffen SS Wiking](#) and [Nordland Divisions](#).^[137]

Use by anti-Nazis

Swastikas marking downed German aircraft on the fuselage sides of a RAF Spitfire.

During World War II it was common to use small swastikas to mark air-to-air victories on the sides of Allied aircraft, and at least one British fighter pilot inscribed a swastika in his logbook for each German plane he shot down in World War II.^[138]

Post–World War II stigmatization

Because of its use by Nazi Germany, the swastika since the 1930s has been largely associated with Nazism. After World War II ended, it is considered a symbol of hate in the West,^[139] or alternatively of white supremacy in many Western countries.^[140]

As a result, all of its use, or its use as a Nazi or hate symbol, is prohibited in some countries, including Germany. Because of the stigma attached to the symbol, many buildings that have used the symbol as decoration have had the symbol removed.^[citation needed] In some countries, such as the United States' *Virginia v. Black* 2003 case, the highest courts have ruled that the local governments can prohibit the use of swastika along with other symbols such as cross burning, if the intent of the use is to intimidate others.^[6]

Germany

Further information: [Strafgesetzbuch section 86a](#)

The German and Austrian postwar [criminal code](#) makes the public showing of the *Hakenkreuz* (the swastika), the [sig rune](#), the [Celtic cross](#) (specifically the variations used by the White-Power-Activists), the [wolfsangel](#), the [odal rune](#) and the [Totenkopf](#) skull illegal, except for scholarly reasons (and, in the case of the odal rune, as the insignia of the rank of sergeant major, *Hauptfeldwebel*,^[141] in the modern German Bundeswehr). It is also censored from the reprints of 1930s railway timetables published by the Reichsbahn. The eagle remains, but appears to be holding a solid black circle between its talons. The swastikas on Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain temples are exempt, as religious symbols cannot be banned in Germany.

The German fashion company [Esprit Holdings](#) was investigated for using traditional British-made folded leather buttons after complaints that they resembled swastikas. In response, Esprit Holdings destroyed two hundred thousand catalogues.^{[142][143]}

A controversy was stirred by the decision of several police departments to begin inquiries against anti-fascists.^[144] In late 2005 police raided the offices of the [punk rock](#) label and mail order store "Nix Gut Records" and confiscated merchandise depicting crossed-out swastikas and fists smashing swastikas. In 2006 the [Stade](#) police department started an inquiry against anti-fascist youths using a placard depicting a person dumping a swastika into a trashcan. The placard was displayed in opposition to the campaign of right-wing nationalist parties for local elections.^[145]

On Friday, 17 March 2006, a member of the [Bundestag](#), [Claudia Roth](#) reported herself to the German police for displaying a crossed-out swastika in multiple demonstrations against [Neo-Nazis](#), and subsequently got the Bundestag to suspend her immunity from prosecution. She intended to show the absurdity of charging anti-fascists with using fascist symbols: "We don't need prosecution of non-violent young people engaging against right-wing extremism." On 15 March 2007, the [Federal Court of Justice of Germany](#) (Bundesgerichtshof) held that the crossed-out symbols were "clearly directed against a revival of national-socialist endeavors", thereby settling the dispute for the future.^{[146][147][148]}

Legislation in other European countries

- Until 2013 in [Hungary](#), it was a criminal misdemeanour to publicly display "totalitarian symbols", including the swastika, the [SS](#) insignia, and the [Arrow Cross](#), punishable by custodial arrest.^{[149][150]} Display for academic, educational, artistic or journalistic reasons was allowed at the time. The [communist symbols](#) of [hammer and sickle](#) and the [red star](#) were also regarded as totalitarian symbols and had the same restriction by Hungarian criminal law until 2013.^[149]
- In [Lithuania](#), public display of Nazi and Soviet symbols, including the Nazi swastika, is an administrative offence, punishable by a fine from 150 to 300 [euros](#). According to judicial practice, display of a non-Nazi swastika is legal.^[151]
- In Poland, public display of Nazi symbols, including the [Nazi](#) swastika, is a criminal offence punishable by up to eight years of imprisonment. The use of the swastika as a religious symbol is legal.^[152]

Attempt to ban in the European Union

The [European Union's Executive Commission](#) proposed a European Union-wide anti-racism law in 2001, but European Union states failed to agree on the balance between prohibiting racism and freedom of expression.^[153] An attempt to ban the swastika across the EU in early 2005 failed after objections from the British Government and others. In early 2007, while Germany held the European Union presidency, Berlin proposed that the European Union should follow German Criminal Law and criminalize the [denial of the Holocaust](#) and the display of Nazi symbols including the swastika, which is based on the Ban on the Symbols of Unconstitutional Organizations Act. This led to an opposition campaign by Hindu groups across Europe against a ban on the swastika. They pointed out that the swastika has been around for 5,000 years as a symbol of peace.^{[154][155]} The proposal to ban the swastika was dropped by Berlin from the proposed [European Union wide anti-racism laws](#) on 29 January 2007.^[153]

Latin America

- The manufacture, distribution or broadcasting of the swastika, with the intent to propagate Nazism, is a crime in [Brazil](#) as dictated by article 20, paragraph 1, of federal statute 7.716, passed in 1989. The penalty is a two to five years prison term and a fine.^[156]
- The flag of the [Guna Yala](#) autonomous territory of [Panama](#) is based on a swastika design. In 1942 a ring was added to the centre of the flag to differentiate it from the symbol of the [Nazi Party](#) (this version subsequently fell into disuse).^[125]

United States

Swastika is a part of the [American Nazi Party](#)'s flag, the symbol picked by its founder George Rockwell.^[157]

Swastika, in various iconographic forms, is one of the hate symbols identified to be in use as [graffiti](#) in the schools of the United States, and is a part of the 1999 US Department of Education's emergency school-wide response trigger.^[158]

Media

In 2010, [Microsoft](#) officially spoke out against the use of the swastika in the [first-person shooter](#) *Call of Duty: Black Ops*. In *Black Ops*, players are allowed to customize their name tags to represent, essentially, whatever they want. The swastika can be created and used, but [Stephen Toulouse](#), director of [Xbox Live](#) policy and enforcement, stated that players with the symbol on their name tag will be banned (if someone reports as inappropriate) from Xbox Live.^[159]

In the [Indiana Jones Stunt Spectacular](#) in [Disney Hollywood Studios](#) in Orlando, Florida, the swastikas on German trucks, aircraft and actor uniforms in the reenactment of a scene from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* were removed in 2004. The swastika has been replaced by a stylized [Greek Cross](#).^[160]

Nazi imagery was adapted and incorporated into the 2016 sci-fi movie *2BR02B: To Be or Naught to Be*. Its inclusion was to subliminally draw parallels between the movie's Federal Bureau of Termination and Nazi Germany, and also refer to [Kurt Vonnegut](#)'s experiences as a [POW](#) and the influence [World War II](#) played in his imagining of a population-controlled future where [gas chambers](#) are used to terminate people. The Federal Bureau of Termination logo appears as a white geometric design with a black outline, centered on vertical banners, in reference to the Third Reich banners. These banners were initially red, until crew felt the allusion was too strong. The movie's hospital was envisaged as the Bureau's branch which controlled birth, and their [red cross](#) was given 'wings' to transform it into a swastika, and link it to the Bureau's logo.^[161]

Contemporary use

Central Asia

In 2005, authorities in [Tajikistan](#) called for the widespread adoption of the swastika as a national [symbol](#). President [Emomali Rahmonov](#) declared the swastika an [Aryan](#) symbol and 2006 to be "the year of Aryan culture", which would be a time to "study and popularize Aryan contributions to the history of the world civilization, raise a new generation (of Tajiks) with the spirit of national self-determination, and develop deeper ties with other ethnicities and cultures".^[162]

East and Southeast Asia



Swastika on a temple in Korea (left), in Taiwan (right).

In East Asia, the swastika is prevalent in Buddhist monasteries and communities. It is commonly found in Buddhist temples, religious artefacts, texts related to Buddhism and schools founded by Buddhist religious groups. It also appears as a design or motif (singularly or woven into a pattern) on textiles, architecture and various decorative objects as a symbol of luck and good fortune. The icon is also found as a sacred symbol in the Bon tradition, but in the left facing mode. ^{[163][164]}



A member of the Red Swastika, circa 1937.

The [Red Swastika Society](#), a syncretic religious group that aspires to unify [Taoism](#), [Confucianism](#), and Buddhism, runs two schools in Hong Kong (the Hong Kong Red Swastika Society Tai Po Secondary School^[165] and the Hong Kong Red Swastika Society Tuen Mun Primary School^[166]) and one in Singapore ([Red Swastika School](#)). All of them incorporated the Swastika in their school logo to signify the society's aspiration with philanthropy and moral education.

The swastika is also used in maps to denote a temple. For example, the symbol is designated by the Survey Act and related Japanese governmental rules to denote a [Buddhist temple](#) on [Japanese maps](#).^[167]

[Hirosaki City](#) in [Aomori Prefecture](#) designates this symbol as its official flag, which stemmed from its use in the emblem of the [Tsugaru clan](#), the lords of [Hirosaki Domain](#) during the [Edo period](#).

Among the predominantly Hindu population of Bali Indonesia, the swastika is common in temples, homes and public spaces. Similarly, the swastika is a common icon associated with Buddha's footprints in Theravada Buddhist communities of Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia.^[164]

Indian subcontinent



Swastika on a 4th-century Indo-Sassanid coin, between the feet.

In India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, the swastika is common. Temples, businesses and other organisations, such as the Buddhist libraries, [Ahmedabad Stock Exchange](#) and the Nepal Chamber of Commerce,^[168] use the swastika in reliefs or logos.^[164] Swastikas are ubiquitous in Indian and Nepalese communities, located on shops, buildings, transport vehicles, and clothing. The swastika continues to be prominently used in Hindu ceremonies such as weddings. The left facing *sauwastika* symbol is found in tantric rituals.^[7]



Logo of [Musaeus College](#), a Buddhist girls' school in Sri Lanka.

[Musaeus College](#) in Colombo, [Sri Lanka](#) which is a popular Buddhist girls' school in the country has a left facing swastika in their school logo.^[citation needed]

In India, swastik and swastika, with their spelling variants, are first names for males and females respectively, for instance with [Swastika Mukherjee](#). The [Seal of Bihar](#) contains two swastikas.^[citation needed]

New religious movements

Besides the use as a religious symbol in Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, which can be traced to pre-modern traditions, the swastika is also used by a number of [new religious movements](#) established in the modern period.



The Raëlian symbol with the swastika (left) and the alternative version (right)

- The [Raëlian Movement](#), who believe that extraterrestrials originally created all life on earth, use a symbol that is often the source of considerable controversy: an interlaced [star of David](#) and a swastika. The Raelians state that the Star of David represents infinity in space whereas the swastika represents infinity in time—no beginning and no end in time, and everything being cyclic.^[169] In 1991, the symbol was changed to remove the swastika, out of respect to the victims of the [Holocaust](#), but as of 2007 has been restored to its original form.^[170]
- The [Tantra](#)-based movement [Ananda Marga](#) (Devanagari: आनन्द मार्ग, meaning *Path of Bliss*) uses a motif similar to the Raëlians, but in their case the apparent star of David is defined as intersecting triangles with no specific reference to Jewish culture.^[citation needed]



The 9th century [Snoldelev Stone](#) is a Viking [runestone](#) with a swastika, an inspiration to Odinism and Asatru

- The [Falun Gong qigong](#) movement uses a symbol that features a large swastika surrounded by four smaller (and rounded) ones, interspersed with [yin-and-yang](#) symbols. The usage is taken from traditional Chinese symbolism, and here alludes to a [chakra](#)-like portion of the esoteric human anatomy, located in the stomach.
- The swastika is a holy symbol of [Odinism](#) and [Asatru](#) (Heathenry), along with hammer of Thor and runes. This tradition is found in [Scandinavia](#), [Germany](#) and elsewhere, and it considers the swastika to be derived from Norse symbol for the sun. Their use of the symbol has led to accusations that they may be a neo-Nazi group.^{[171][172][173]}

Western misinterpretation of Asian use

Since the end of the 20th century, and through the early 21st century, confusion and controversy has occurred when consumer goods bearing the traditional Jain, Buddhist, or Hindu symbols have been exported to the West, notably to North America and Europe, and have been interpreted by consumers as bearing a Nazi symbol. This has resulted in several such products having been boycotted or pulled from shelves.

When a ten-year-old boy in [Lynbrook, New York](#), bought a set of [Pokemon cards](#) imported from Japan in 1999, two of the cards contained the left-facing Buddhist swastika. The boy's parents misinterpreted the symbol as the right-facing Nazi swastika and filed a complaint to the manufacturer. [Nintendo of America](#) announced that the cards would be discontinued, explaining that what was acceptable in one culture was not necessarily so in another; their action was welcomed by the [Anti-Defamation League](#) who recognised that there was no intention to be offensive but said that international commerce meant that "isolating [the Swastika] in Asia would just create more problems".^[16]

In 2002, [Christmas crackers](#) containing plastic toy red pandas sporting swastikas were pulled from shelves after complaints from consumers in Canada. The manufacturer, based in China, said the symbol was presented in a traditional sense and not as a reference to the Nazis, and apologized to the customers for the cross-cultural mixup.^[174]

In 2007, Spanish fashion chain [Zara](#) withdrew a handbag from its stores after a customer in Britain complained swastikas were embroidered on it. The bags were made by a supplier in India and inspired by commonly used Hindu symbols, which include the swastika.^[175]

See also

-  [Buddhism portal](#)
-  [Heathenism portal](#)
-  [Hinduism portal](#)
-  [India portal](#)
-  [Jainism portal](#)
-  [Nazi Germany portal](#)
-  [Fascism portal](#)

- [Armenian eternity sign](#)
- [Borjgali](#)
- [Brigid's cross](#)
- [Camunian rose](#)
- [Fascist symbolism](#)
- [Labyrinth](#)
- [Nazi mysticism](#)
- [Sun cross](#)
- [Swastika curve](#)
- [Western use of the swastika in the early 20th century](#)

References

1.

- Bruce M. Sullivan (2001). *The A to Z of Hinduism*. Scarecrow Press. p. 216. [ISBN 978-1-4616-7189-3](#).
- • Adrian Snodgrass (1992). *The Symbolism of the Stupa*. Motilal Banarsidass. pp. 82–83. [ISBN 978-81-208-0781-5](#).
- • [Cort 2001](#), p. 17.
- • Beer, Robert (1 January 2003). *"The Handbook of Tibetan Buddhist Symbols"*. Serindia Publications, Inc. – via Google Books.
- • "History of the Swastika". *Holocaust Encyclopedia*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC. 2009.
- • Wiener, Richard L.; Richter, Erin (2008). "Symbolic hate: Intention to intimidate, political ideology, and group association.". *Law and Human Behavior*. American Psychological Association. 32 (6): 463–476. [doi:10.1007/s10979-007-9119-3](#).
- • [Swastika: SYMBOL](#), Encyclopaedia Britannica (2017)
- • *"The Migration of Symbols Index"*.
- • Press, Cambridge University (10 April 2008). *"Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary"*. Cambridge University Press – via Google Books.
- • *"Swastika" Etymology*. *Dictionary.com*. Retrieved 8 June 2015.
- • Art Silverblatt; Nikolai Zlobin (2015). *International Communications: A Media Literacy Approach*. Routledge. p. 109. [ISBN 978-1-317-46760-1](#), Quote: "Buddha's footprints were said to be swastikas."
- • Mohan Pant; Shūji Funo (2007). *Stupa and Swastika: Historical Urban Planning Principles in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley*. National University of Singapore Press. pp. 231 with note 5. [ISBN 978-9971-69-372-5](#).
- • Lorraine Boissoneault (6 April 2017), [The Man Who Brought the Swastika to Germany, and How the Nazis Stole It](#), Smithsonian Magazine
- • Rosenberg, Jennifer. *"History of Swastika"*. *about.com*. Retrieved 26 April 2013.
- • Champion, Mukti Jain (23 October 2014). *"How the world loved the swastika — until Hitler stole it"*. *BBC News Magazine*.
- • Steven Heller, "The Swastika: Symbol Beyond Redemption?" Allworth Press, New York, 2008 p. 156-7.
- • F. R. Allchin; George Erdosy (1995). *The Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia: The Emergence of Cities and States*. Cambridge University Press. p. 180. [ISBN 978-0-521-37695-2](#).
- • first recorded 1871 ([OED](#)); alternative historical English spellings include *suastika*, *swastica*, and *svastica*; see, for example: [Notes and Queries, No. 170, March 31 1883](#). Oxford University Press. 1883. p. 259.
- • Douglas Harper (2016), [Swastika](#), Etymology Dictionary
- • Bernard Thomas Mees (2008). *The Science of the Swastika*. Central European University Press. pp. 57–58. [ISBN 978-963-9776-18-0](#).
- • Heinrich Schliemann (1880). *Ilios*. J. Murray. pp. 347–348.
- • [Monier Monier-Williams](#) (1899). *A Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, s.v. [svastika](#) (p. 1283).
- • [A Vedic Concordance](#), Maurice Bloomfield, Harvard University Press, pages 1052-1054

- • [Frits Staal](#) (1965), [Euclid and Pānini](#), *Philosophy East and West*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (April 1965), pp. 99-116
- • [Cardona, George](#) (1998), [Pānini: A Survey of Research](#), Motilal Banarsidass, p. 268, [ISBN 978-81-208-1494-3](#)
- • [Panini \(Indian Grammarian\)](#). *Encyclopædia Britannica*. 2013.
- • [Hartmut Scharfe](#) (1977). [Grammatical Literature](#). Otto Harrassowitz Verlag. pp. 88–89. [ISBN 978-3-447-01706-0](#).
- • ["Tetraskelion Definition and Origin"](#). Merriam-Webster Inc. Retrieved 5 August 2015.
- • ["Melissa Cody's Whirling Logs: Don't You Dare Call Them Swastikas"](#). ICTMN.com. 7 August 2013.
- • [John Powers](#) (2007). [Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism](#). Shambhala. p. 509. [ISBN 978-1-55939-835-0](#).
- • [Luciano Chessa](#) (2012). [Luigi Russolo, Futurist: Noise, Visual Arts, and the Occult](#). University of California Press. p. 34. [ISBN 978-0-520-95156-3](#).
- • <https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces59114.html>
- • ["Swastika Flag Specifications and Construction Sheet \(Germany\)"](#). *Flags of the World*.
- • ["CJK Unified Ideographs"](#) (PDF). (4.83 MB), *The Unicode Standard, Version 4.1*. Unicode, Inc. 2005.
- • Big5: C9_C3, according to [Wenlin](#)
- • Big5+: 85_80, according to [Wenlin](#)
- • ["Right-Facing Svasti Sign"](#) (click "next" 3 times)
- • [Paliga S.](#), *The tablets of Tārtāria Dialogues d'histoire ancienne*, vol. 19, n°1, 1993. pp. 9-43; [\(Fig.5 on p.28\)](#)
- • [Freed, S. A. and R. S.](#), "Origin of the Swastika", *Natural History*, January 1980, 68-75.
- • [Assasi, Reza](#). 2013. Swastika: The Forgotten Constellation Representing the Chariot of Mithras. In: [Ivan Šprajc and Peter Pehani Ed. ANCIENT COSMOLOGIES AND MODERN PROPHETS: Proceedings of the 20th Conference of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture \(Special volume of Anthropological Notebooks\)](#) Ljubljana: Slovene Anthropological Society. p418. [ISSN 1408-032X](#)
- • [Sagan, Carl](#); [Ann Druyan](#) (1985). *Comet*. Ballantine Books. p. 496. [ISBN 0-345-41222-2](#).
- • [Kobres, Bob](#). ["Comets and the Bronze Age Collapse"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 8 September 2009.
- • [Hewitt, J.F.K.](#) (1907). [Primitive Traditional History: The Primitive History and Chronology of India, South-eastern and South-western Asia, Egypt, and Europe, and the Colonies Thence Sent Forth](#). I. J. Parker and Company.
- • [Good Housekeeping](#). 47. C. W. Bryan & Company. 1908.
- • [Stewart, Ian](#) (1999). *Life's Other Secret: The new mathematics of the living world*. Penguin.
- • [Tokhatyan, K.S.](#) ["Rock Carvings of Armenia, Fundamental Armenology, v. 2, 2015, pp. 1-22"](#). Institute of History of NAS RA.
- • [Campion, Mukti Jain](#) (23 October 2014). ["How the world loved the swastika - until Hitler stole it"](#). Retrieved 14 February 2017 – via [www.bbc.com](#).
- • [Campbell, Joseph](#) (2002). *The Flight of the Wild Gander*. p. 117.
- • [Freed, Stanley A.](#) *Research Pitfalls as a Result of the Restoration of Museum Specimens*, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Volume 376, The Research Potential of Anthropological Museum Collections pages 229–245, December 1981.
- • [Dimitrova, Stefania](#): ["8 000 Year Ago Proto-Thracians Depicted the Evolution of the Divine"](#)
- • [Kathleen M. Nadeau](#) (2010). [Lee, Jonathan H. X., ed. Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife](#). ABL-CLIO. p. 87. [ISBN 978-0-313-35066-5](#). Retrieved 21 March 2011.
- • Staff (ndg) ["Researchers find the Swastika predates the Indus Valley Civilization"](#) *Ancient Code*; citing :lead project investigator" Joy Sen from the [Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur](#)
- • [Dunham, Dows](#) "A Collection of 'Pot-Marks' from Kush and Nubia", *Kush*, 13, 131-147, 1965
- • (in Chinese) [Bao Jing](#) ["“卍”与“卐”漫议 \("卍" and "卐" Man Yee\)](#)". 6 January 2004, [news.xinhuanet.com](#)
- • ["Jar with swastika design Majiayao culture, Machang type \(Gansu or Qinghai province\)"](#). Daghlian Collection of Chinese Art

- • (in Chinese) ["卍字符號 \(Swastika Symbol\). Epoch Times](#), 2009-04-22 Reprint from *New Era* #115 "Art and Culture" section (2009.04.02—04.08)
- • *Stipčević, Aleksandar (1 January 1977). "The Illyrians: history and culture". Noyes Press. Retrieved 14 February 2017 – via Google Books.*
- • [Gennady Zdanovich. "О мировоззрении древних жителей «Страны Городов»". Русский след](#), 26 June 2017.
- • ["Textile fragment". V&A Museum. Retrieved 14 September 2017.](#)
- • *Rp, Aravindan. "a real foot print of facts". Retrieved 2017-09-09.*
- • a term coined by Anna Roes, "Tierwirbel", IPEK, 1936-37
- • [Marija Gimbutas. "The Balts before the Dawn of History". Vaidilute.com. Archived from the original on 10 January 2012.](#)
- • [Claude Lévi-Strauss, Structural Anthropology \(1959\), p. 267.](#)
- • *Steven Heller. The Swastika: Symbol Beyond Redemption?. Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. p. 31.*
- • *Mohan Pant, Shūji Funo. Stupa and Swastika: Historical Urban Planning Principles in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley. NUS Press. p. 16.*
- • [Dictionary - Definition of swastika](#)
- • *Druid, Morning Star Athbhreith Athbheochan Kwisatz Haderach. "A symbol is a thought, a drawing, an action, an archetype, etcetera of the conceptualization of a thing that exists either in reality or in the imagination."*
- • *Janis Lander (2013). Spiritual Art and Art Education. Routledge. pp. 27–28. ISBN 978-1-134-66789-5.*
- • *Norman C. McClelland (2010). Encyclopedia of Reincarnation and Karma. McFarland. pp. 263–264. ISBN 978-0-7864-5675-8.*
- • *Chris Buckley (2005). Tibetan Furniture. Sambhala. pp. 5, 59, 68–70. ISBN 978-1-891640-20-9.*
- • (Japanese) *Hitoshi Takazawa, Encyclopedia of Kamon, Tōkyōdō Shuppan, 2008. ISBN 978-4-490-10738-8.*
- • "Sayagata 紗綾形". [Japanese Architecture and Art Net Users System](#).
- • Concise Armenian Encyclopedia, Yerevan, v. II, p. 663
- • T. Wilson [The swastika, the earliest known symbol and its migrations](#), p. 807, 951
- • [Armenia](#).
- • *Jacob G. Ghazarian (2006), The Mediterranean legacy in early Celtic Christianity: a journey from Armenia to Ireland, Bennett & Bloom, pp. 263, p. 171 "... Quite a different version of the Celtic triskelion, and perhaps the most common pre-Christian symbolism found throughout Armenian cultural tradition, is the round clockwise (occasionally counter-clockwise) whirling sun-like spiral fixed at a centre — the Armenian symbol of eternity."*
- • *K. B. Mehr, M. Markow, Mormon Missionaries enter Eastern Europe, Brigham Young University Press, 2002, pp. 399, p. 252 "... She viewed a tall building with spires and circular windows along the top of the walls. It was engraved with sun stones, a typical symbol of eternity in ancient Armenian architecture."*
- • *Stipčević, Aleksandar (1977-01-01). The Illyrians: history and culture. Noyes Press. ISBN 9780815550525.*
- • *Biers, W.R. 1996. The Archaeology of Greece, p. 130. Cornell University Press, Ithaca/London.*
- • ["Perseus:image:1990.26.0822". Perseus.tufts.edu. 1990-02-26. Retrieved 2 March 2010.](#)
- • *Robert Ferré. "Amiens Cathedral". Labyrinth Enterprises. Constructed from 1220 to 1402, Amiens Cathedral is the largest Gothic cathedral in France, a popular tourist attraction and since 1981 a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During World War I, Amiens was targeted by German forces but remained in Allied territory following the Battle of Amiens.*
- • *Gary Malkin. "Tockington Park Roman Villa". The Area of Bristol in Roman Times. 9 December 2002.*
- • *Lara Nagy, Jane Vadnal, "Glossary Medieval Art and Architecture", "Greek key or meander", University of Pittsburgh 1997-98.*
- • [The Battersea Shield British Museum](#)
- • ["CISP entry". Ucl.ac.uk. Retrieved 2 March 2010.](#)
- • *Martin J Powell. "Megalithic Sites in England - Photo Archive".*
- • *Margrethe, Queen, Poul Kjrum, Rikke Agnete Olsen (1990). Oldtidens Ansigt: Faces of the Past, page 148. ISBN 978-87-7468-274-5*

- • H.R. Ellis Davidson (1965). *Gods and Myths of Northern Europe*, page 83. [ISBN 978-0-14-013627-2](#), p. 83
- • *Stipčević, Aleksandar (1977). [The Illyrians: history and culture](#). Noyes Press. pp. 182, 186. ISBN 9780815550525.*
- • ["Prasłowiańskie motywy architektoniczne"](#). 1923. Retrieved 19 May 2014.
- • *Pierre Gilliard*. Тринадцать лет при русском дворе = Thirteen Years at the Russian Court. — М.: «Захаров», 2006. — [ISBN 5-8159-0566-6](#). — p. 175.
- • *Николаев Р. [Советские «кредитки» со свастикой?](#)* (in Russian) // «Миниатюра» 1992 №7, с. 11. [archived](#)
- • [s.ru:Приказ войскам Юго-Восточного фронта от 03.11.1919 № 213](#), *Степанов Алексей*. Красный калейдоскоп гражданской войны. Калмыцкие формирования. 1919 - 1921 // Цейхгауз. - 1995 - № 4 - С. 43
- • *Вольфганг, Акунов. ["Книга: Барон фон Унгерн - Белый бог войны"](#)*. [e-reading.org.ua](#). Retrieved 14 February 2017.
- • *Багдасаров Р. В. (2002). ["Русские имена свастики"](#). [Свастика: священный символ. Этнорелигиоведческие очерки](#) (in Russian) (2nd ed.). Moscow: Белые Альвы. ISBN 5-7619-0164-1.*
- • *Багдасаров, Роман. ["Свастика: благословение или проклятие"](#). "Цена Победы". ["Echo of Moscow"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 23 August 2011. Retrieved 2010-04-07.*
- • [Вячеслав Лихачев. \[Нацизм в России. с.5\]\(#\)](#) - about symbolic of neo-nazy party "[RNU](#)"
- • *McKay, George. [Subcultures and New Religious Movements in Russia and East-Central Europe](#). p. 282.*
- • *Trubachyov, Oleg, ed. (1983). ["Kolovortъ; коловѣртъ"](#) (PDF). [Etymological dictionary of Slavic languages](#) (in Russian). 10. Moscow: [Наука](#). pp. 149, 150.*
- • *Mudde, Cas. [Racist Extremism in Central and Eastern Europe](#). p. 61.*
- • ["Парковая страница Имена.UA"](#).
- • ["Swastika \(Kolovrat\) - Historical Roots"](#) (in Russian). [Distedu.ru](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • *Vladimir Nikolaevich. ["The Swastika, the historical roots"](#)* (in Russian). [Klk.pp.ru](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • *Vladimir Plakhotnyuk. ["Kolovrat-Historical Roots-Collection of articles"](#)* (in Russian). [Ruskolan.xpomo.com](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • *Claire Polakoff. [Into Indigo: African Textiles and Dyeing Techniques](#). 1980*
- • *Schliemann, H, [Troy and its remains](#), London: Murray, 1875, pp. 102, 119-20.*
- • *Boxer, Sarah (2000-06-29). ["One of the World's Great Symbols Strives for a Comeback"](#). [Think Tank. The New York Times](#). Retrieved 7 May 2012.*
- • [Dutch article in Wikipedia "Swastika"; Holocaust Chronology](#)
- • ["Emblem or the Seal - TS Adyar"](#).
- • ["Flickr Album: "Probably the Best Photo's of Swastikas in the World""](#). [Fiveprime.org](#). Retrieved 1 May 2011.
- • [Carlsberg Group Website](#)
- • ["Swastika chimney"](#). [The Irish Times](#). 2007-03-03. Archived from [the original](#) on 20 May 2011. Retrieved 3 October 2010.
- • ["Swastika Laundry \(1912–1987\)"](#). [Come here to me!. Comeheretome.wordpress.com](#). 2010-04-26. Retrieved 3 October 2010.
- • ["Partiolippukunta Pitkäjärven Vaeltajat ry"](#). [Pitva.partio.net](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • *Kainuun Kerho (2009-09-18). ["Kainuun Kerho"](#). [Ppo.osakunta.fi](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.*
- • ["Tursan Sydän"](#). [Tursa.fi](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • [Flag](#) The President of the Republic Of Finland
- • ["Campaign site rautasormus.fi \(campaign now closed\)"](#). [Rautasormus.fi](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • <https://latvianhistory.com/tag/swastika/>
- • [Latvian Air Force 1918-40](#). Retrieved 30 September 2008.
- • [Spārnota Latvija](#). Retrieved 30 September 2008.
- • *Dottie Indyke. ["The History of an Ancient Human Symbol"](#)*. 4 April 2005. originally from *The Wingspread Collector's Guide to [Santa Fe](#), [Taos](#) and [Albuquerque](#)*, Volume 15.
- • Photo and text, ["Why is there a Swastika on the saddle in the First Nations Gallery?"](#), [Royal Saskatchewan Museum](#)
- • [Chants and Myths about Creation](#), from *Rainforest Art*. Retrieved 25 February 2006.

- • [Panama - Native Peoples](#), from Flags of the World. Retrieved 20 February 2006.
- • ["text of Mein Kampf at Project Gutenberg of Australia"](#). [Gutenberg.net.au](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • Walther Blachetta: *Das Buch der deutschen Sinnzeichen* (The book of German sense characters); reprint of 1941; page 47
- • Robert Proctor. [Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis](#). Harvard University Press. p. 220.
- • Mark B. Adams (1990). [The Wellborn Science : Eugenics in Germany, France, Brazil, and Russia: Eugenics in Germany, France, Brazil, and Russia](#). Oxford University Press. p. 43.
- • José Manuel Erbez. ["Order of the New Templars 1907"](#). [Flags of the World](#). January 21, 2001.
- • Santiago Dotor and Norman Martin. "German Hunting Society 1934-1945 (Third Reich, Germany)" [Flags of the World](#). 15 March 2003. [The flag of the Reichsbund Deutsche Jägerschaft](#)
- • Mark Sensen, António Martins, Norman Martin, and Ralf Stelter. ["Centred vs. Offset Disc and Swastika 1933-1945 \(Germany\)"](#). [Flags of the World](#). 29 December 2004.
- • ["Centred vs. Offset Disc and Swastika 1933-1945 \(Germany\)"](#). [Flagspot.net](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • Marcus Wendel et al. ["Hitler Youth \(NSDAP, Germany\)"](#). [Flags of the World](#). 17 January 2004.
- • Norman Martin et al. ["War Ensign 1938-1945 \(Germany\)"](#). [Flags of the World](#). The "Reichskriegsflagge"
- • Flags at [Flags of the World](#):
- • [Nordland: A Brief History \(Archived\)](#) 19 October 2009. Includes photo of the unusual curved Swastika worn by the division. Retrieved 3 October 2010.
- • ["Battle of Britain hero's medals to go under the hammer"](#).
- • Verhulsdonck, Gustav (2013). [Digital Rhetoric and Global Literacies](#). IGI. p. 94. [ISBN 978-1-4666-4917-0](#).
- • Dawn Perlmutter (2003). [Investigating Religious Terrorism and Ritualistic Crimes](#). CRC Press. p. 242. [ISBN 978-1-4200-4104-0](#).
- • [de:Hauptfeldweibel](#)
- • ["Fashion firm under investigation for swastika design"](#), [European Jewish Press](#), 19 October 2006
- • ["Prosecutors drop probe into swastika buttons"](#), [dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH German News Service](#), 19 October 2006.
- • [Journal Chretien](#). ["Le Journal Chrétien, "Stuttgart Seeks to Ban Anti-Fascist Symbols""](#). [Spcm.org](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • (in German) [Tageblatt](#) 23 September 2006
- • ["3 StR 486/06"](#) (PDF). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • ["Bundesgerichtshof press statement No. 36/2007"](#). [Juris.bundesgerichtshof.de](#). 2007-03-15. Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • ["Der Spiegel, 15 March 2007"](#). [Spiegel.de](#). Retrieved 2 March 2010.
- • ["Hungary, hammer and sickle ban declared illegal"](#). [ANSA](#). 27 February 2013. Retrieved 12 November 2013.
- • ["Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code, Section 335: Use of Symbols of Totalitarianism"](#) (PDF). Ministry of Interior of Hungary. p. 97. Retrieved 21 February 2017. Any person who: a) distributes, b) uses before the public at large, or c) publicly exhibits, the swastika, the insignia of the SS, the arrow cross, the sickle and hammer, the five-pointed red star or any symbol depicting the above so as to breach public peace – specifically in a way to offend the dignity of victims of totalitarian regimes and their right to sanctity – is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by custodial arrest, insofar as it did not result in a more serious criminal offense.
- • Stemple, Hillary (20 May 2010). ["Lithuania court rules swastikas are part of historic legacy"](#). [JURIST](#).
- • Day, Matthew (23 April 2009) ["Poland 'to ban' Che Guevara image"](#) [The Daily Telegraph](#)
- • Ethan McNern. [Swastika ban left out of EU's racism law](#), [The Scotsman](#), 30 January 2007
- • Staff. [Hindus opposing EU swastika ban](#), [BBC online](#), 17 January 2007.
- • Staff (source [dgs/Reuters](#))[Hindus Against Proposed EU Swastika Ban Der Spiegel](#) online, 17 January 2007
- • [Brazilian Federal Statute 7.716](#) 1989-05-01, (Portuguese)
- • Frederick J. Simonelli (1995), [The American Nazi Party, 1958–1967](#), [The Historian](#), Vol. 57, No. 3 (SPRING 1995), pp. 553-566

- • Jim Carnes (1999), [Responding to Hate at School: A Guide for Teachers, Counselors and Administrators](#), ERIC, Department of Education, US Government, pages 9-11, 33, 49-50
 - • ["Black Ops Swastika Emblems Will Earn Xbox Live Ban"](#). *The Escapist*. 22 November 2010. Retrieved 9 August 2012.
 - • Jay P. Telotte. [The Mouse Machine: Disney and Technology, p. 201](#). Retrieved 29 September 2013.
 - • [Masson, Sophie \(19 October 2016\). "2BR02B: the journey of a dystopian film—an interview with Leon Coward"](#). *Feathers of the Firebird (Interview)*.
 - • Saidazimova, Gulnoza (2005-12-23). ["Tajikistan: Officials Say Swastika Part Of Their Aryan Heritage - Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty © 2008"](#). *Rferl.org*. Retrieved 2 March 2010.
 - • John Powers (2007). [Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism](#). Shambhala. pp. 508–509. [ISBN 978-1-55939-835-0](#).
 - • Jonathan H. X. Lee; Kathleen M. Nadeau (2011). [Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife](#). ABC-CLIO. pp. 86–87. [ISBN 978-0-313-35066-5](#).
 - • [Hong Kong Red Swastika Society Tai Po Secondary School Official website <http://www.hkrsstpss.edu.hk>]
 - • [Hong Kong Red Swastika Society Tuen Mun Primary School website <http://www.hkrsstmps.edu.hk>]
 - • [平成14年2万5千分1地形図図式 \[2002 1:25000 Topographical Map Scheme\]](#) (in Japanese). Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. Retrieved 21 April 2012.
 - • ["daily picture \(News from Nepal as it happens\):"](#). *Nepalnews.com*. Retrieved 2 March 2010.
 - • ["Pro-Swastika"](#). *Pro-Swastika*. Retrieved 2 March 2010.
 - • ["The Official Raelian Symbol gets its swastika back"](#). *Raelianews*. 2007-01-17. Retrieved 2 March 2010.
 - • Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra; Brian P. Levack; Roy Porter (1999). [Witchcraft and Magic in Europe, Volume 6: The Twentieth Century](#). Bloomsbury Academic. pp. 111–114. [ISBN 978-0-485-89105-8](#).
 - • Stefanie von Schnurbein (2016). [Norse Revival: Transformations of Germanic Neopaganism](#). Brill Academic. [ISBN 978-90-04-29435-6](#).
 - • Bernard Thomas Mees (2008). [The Science of the Swastika](#). Central European University Press. pp. 141, 193–194, 210–211, 226–227. [ISBN 978-963-9776-18-0](#).
 - • [CBC News](#) 30 December 2002: [Toy pandas bearing swastikas a cultural mix-up](#)
175. • [Reuters: Fashion chain Zara withdraws swastika handbag](#)

Sources

- [Cort, John E. \(2001\), *Jains in the World : Religious Values and Ideology in India*, Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-513234-3](#)
- Aigner, Dennis J. (2000). *The Swastika Symbol in Navajo Textiles*. Laguna Beach, California: DAI Press. [ISBN 0-9701898-0-X](#).
- [Clarence House issues apology for Prince Harry's Nazi costume](#). *BBC News*. 13 January 2005.
- Clube, V. and Napier, B. *The Cosmic Serpent*. Universe Books, 1982.
- Enthoven, R.E. *The Folklore of Bombay*. London: Oxford University Press, 1924 (pp. 40–45).
- Gardner, N. (2006) *Multiple Meanings: The Swastika Symbol*. In [Hidden Europe](#), 11, pp. 35–37. Berlin. [ISSN 1860-6318](#).
- Jaume Ollé, Željko Heimer, and Norman Martin. ["State Flag and Ensign 1935-1945"](#) 29 December 2004. *The Reichsdienstflagge*.
- e, Steven. *Animals and the Origin of Dance*, Thames and Hudson Inc., NY, 1982 (pp. 169–181).
- Leidig, Ludwig. *Bombshell*. sbpra, 2013, [ISBN 978-1-62516-346-2](#)
- MacCulloch, C.J.A. Canon, John A. (Ed.) *The Mythology of All Races*. vol. 8 ("Chinese Mythology" Ferguson, John C.) Marshall Jones Co. Boston, MA 1928 (p. 31).
- ManWoman. *Gentle Swastika: Reclaiming the Innocence*, Cranbrook, B.C., Canada: Flyfoot Press, 2001. [ISBN 0-9688716-0-7](#).
- Marcus Wendel, Jaume Ollé, et al. ["Schutzstaffel/SS"](#) 14 December 2001.

- Morphy, Howard (Ed.). *Animals into Art* (ONE WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY; vol. 7) Unwin Gyman Ltd., London, 1989 (chapt. 11 Schaafsma, Polly).
- Norman Martin et al. "[Standard of the Leader and National Chancellor 1935-1945](#)". 9 April 2004. Hitler's personal flag.
- Roy, Pratap Chandra. The *Mahabharata*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1973 (vol. 1 section 13-58, vol. 5 section 2-3).
- Schliemann, Henry. *Ilios* Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, NY, 1881 (pp. 334–353).
- Tan Huay Peng. (1980–1983). *Fun with Chinese Characters*. Singapore: Federal Publications. ISBN 981-01-3005-8.
- *The Swastika: The Earliest Known Symbol, and Its Migrations; with Observations on the Migration of Certain Industries in Prehistoric Times*. In *Annual report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution*. Washington DC: [Smithsonian Institution](#)
- Whipple, Fred L. *The Mystery of Comets* Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, DC 1985, (pp. 163–167).
- Wilson, Thomas (Curator, Department of Prehistoric Anthropology, U.S. National Museum) [The Swastika](#). Government Printing Office, Washington, USA, 1896.

Further reading

- Mees, Bernard Thomas (2008), *The Science of the Swastika*, Central European University Press, ISBN 978-963-9776-18-0
- Quinn, Malcolm (2005), *The Swastika: Constructing the Symbol*, Routledge, ISBN 978-1-134-85495-0
- Heller, Steven (2013), *The Swastika: Symbol Beyond Redemption?*, Allworth Press, ISBN 978-1-58115-789-5

External links

Listen to this article ([info/dl](#))

Menu
0:00



This audio file was created from a revision of the article "Swastika" dated 2005-04-20, and does not reflect subsequent edits to the article. ([Audio help](#))

[More spoken articles](#)



Wikimedia Commons has media related to:

[Swastika](#) (category)



Look up [𐌆](#) or *[swastika](#)* in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.

General

- [History of the Swastika](#) (*US Holocaust Memorial Museum*)
- [The Origins of the Swastika](#) *BBC News*
- [A Swastika Pictorial Atlas](#)
- [Swastika in Norway](#)

Dharmic religions

- [Swastikam - Symbol of Auspiciousness](#) (chapter 7 of *Vishayasuchi* by Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami)

- [Om, Swastika and Shivalinga](#) (Book by Narsibhai Patel)
- ['Symbology of Swastika' by S. Srikanta Sastri](#)

Nazi use

- [The variants of the NS-swastika flag](#)
- [Documentary about the use of the swastika in the Third Reich](#)
- From [Flags of the World](#):
 - [Origins of the Swastika Flag \(Third Reich, Germany\)](#) (collection of links and comments)
 - [Neo-Nazi flags](#) (links to other *FOTW* pages)

[\[hide\]](#)

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

Amulets and talismans

Amulets

- [Agimat](#)
- [Amulet MS 5236](#)
- [Bulla](#)
- [Cimaruta](#)
- [Cornicello](#)
- [Cross necklace](#)
- [Djucu](#)
- [Dreamcatcher](#)
- [Dzi bead](#)
- [Fascinus](#)
- [Fulu](#)
- [Good luck charm](#)
- [Gorgoneion](#)
- [Gris-gris](#)
- [Hamsa](#)
- [Horse brass](#)
- [Horseshoe](#)
- [I'noGo tied](#)
- [Jackal's horn](#)
- [Kanai Anzen](#)
- [Lapis alectorius](#)
- [Mojo](#)
- [Mugwort](#)
- [Nazar](#)
- [Omamori](#)
- [Painted pebbles](#)
- [Palad khik](#)
- [Rabbit's foot](#)
- [Red string \(Kabbalah\)](#)
- [Sachet \(scented bag\)](#)
- [Sampy](#)
- [Ta'wiz](#)
- [Takrut](#)
- [Thokcha](#)
- [Tintinnabulum \(Ancient Rome\)](#)
- [Touch piece](#)
- [Troll cross](#)

Talismans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamen • Navaratna • Seal of Solomon • Swastika • Talismans in the Bábí and Bahá'í Faiths • Uncial 0152
Related articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apotropaic magic • Curse tablet • Evil eye • Feng Shui • Folk religion • Magic and religion • Numerology • Superstitions • Torma

[\[hide\]](#)

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

[Hinduism topics](#)

- [Glossary](#)

Philosophy	Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brahman • Om • Ishvara • Atman • Maya • Karma • Samsara • Purusharthas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dharma ○ Artha ○ Kama ○ Moksha • Niti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ahimsa ○ Asteya ○ Aparigraha ○ Brahmacharya ○ Satya ○ Dāna ○ Damah ○ Dayā ○ Akrodha
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astika: Samkhya • Yoga • Nyaya • Vaisheshika • Mimamsa



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vedanta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dvaita ◦ Advaita ◦ Vishishtadvaita • Nastika: Charvaka
Texts	Classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Śruti • Smriti
	Vedas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigveda • Yajurveda • Samaveda • Atharvaveda
	Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samhita • Brahmana • Aranyaka • Upanishad
	Upanishads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aitareya • Kaushitaki • Brihadaranyaka • Isha • Taittiriya • Katha • Maitri • Shvetashvatara • Chandogya • Kena • Mundaka • Mandukya • Prashna
	Upavedas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayurveda • Dhanurveda • Gandharvaveda • Sthapatyaveda
Vedanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shiksha • Chandas • Vyakarana • Nirukta • Kalpa • Jyotisha 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhagavad Gita • Agamas • Itihasas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ramayana ◦ Mahabharata • Puranas • Minor Upanishads • Artha Shastra • Dharma Shastra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Manusmriti 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nāradaśmṛti ○ Yājñavalkya Śmṛti • Sūtras • Stotras • Subhashita • Tantras • Yoga Vasistha • Yoga Sūtras of Patanjali
<p>Deities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trimurti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brahma ○ Vishnu ○ Shiva • Ishvara • Devi • Deva • Saraswati • Lakshmi • Parvati • Shakti • Durga • Kali • Ganesha • Kartikeya • Rama • Krishna • Hanuman • Prajapati • Rudra • Indra • Agni • Dyaus • Bhumi • Varuna • Vayu 	
<p>Practices</p>	<p>Worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temple • Murti • Puja • Bhakti • Japa • Bhajana • Naivedhya • Yajna • Homa • Tapa • Dhyana • Tirthadana
	<p>Sanskaras</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbhadhana • Pumsavana • Simantonayana • Jatakarma • Namakarana • Nishkramana • Annaprashana • Chudakarana

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnavedha • Vidyarambha • Upanayana • Keshanta • Ritushuddhi • Samavartana • Vivaha • Antyeshti
	Varnashrama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brahmin ○ Kshatriya ○ Vaishya ○ Shudra • Ashrama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brahmacharya ○ Grihastha ○ Vanaprastha ○ Sanyassa
	Festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diwali • Holi • Shivaratri • Raksha Bandhan • Navaratri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Durga Puja ○ Ramlila ○ Vijayadashami (Dasara) • Ganesh Chaturthi • Rama Navami • Janmashtami • Onam • Pongal • Makar Sankranti • New Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bihu ○ Gudi Padwa ○ Pahela Baishakh ○ Puthandu ○ Vaisakhi ○ Vishu ○ Ugadi • Kumbha Mela • Ratha Yatra • Teej • Vasant Panchami • Others
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svādhyāya • Namaste
Related		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindu • Denominations • Law • Calendar • Criticism

- [Gurus, saints, philosophers](#)
- [Hindu studies](#)
- [Iconography](#)
- [Mythology](#)
- [Nationalism](#)
 - [Hindutva](#)
- [Persecution](#)
- [Pilgrimage sites](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Hinduism by country](#)

- [Category](#)
- [Portal](#)

[\[hide\]](#)

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

 [Jainism topics](#)

[Gods](#)

- [Tirthankara](#)
- [Ganadhara](#)
- [Arihant](#)

[Philosophy](#)

- [Ethics](#)
 - [Ahimsa](#)
- [Epistemology](#)
 - [Kevala Jñāna](#)
- [Jaina logic](#)
 - [Anekāntavāda](#)
- [Jain cosmology](#)
 - [Siddhashila](#)
 - [Naraka](#)
 - [Heavenly beings](#)
- [Karma](#)
 - [Types](#)
 - [Causes](#)
- [Gunasthana](#)
- [Dravya](#)
 - [Jiva](#)
 - [Ajiva](#)
 - [Pudgala](#)
 - [Dharma](#)
- [Tattva](#)
 - [Asrava](#)
 - [Bandha](#)
 - [Samvara](#)
 - [Nirjara](#)
 - [Mokṣa](#)
- [Death](#)
- [Samsāra](#)
- [Ratnatraya](#)
- [Kashaya](#)

[Branches](#)

[Digambara](#)

- [Mula Sangha](#)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Balatkara Gana ○ Kashtha Sangha • Taran Panth • Bispanthi • Terapanth • Yapaniya
	Śvētāmbara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murtipujaka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gaccha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kharatara ▪ Tapa ▪ Tristutik • Sthānakavāsī • Terapanth
Practices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sallekhana • Meditation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sāmāyika • Monasticism • Vegetarianism • Fasting • Rituals • Festivals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paryushana ○ Kshamavani ○ Mahamastakabhisheka • Upadhan • Tapas • Pratikramana
Literature		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shatkhandagama ○ Kasayapahuda • Mantra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Namokar Mantra ○ Bhaktamara Stotra • Tattvartha Sutra • Samayasāra • Aptamimamsa • Kalpa Sūtra
Symbols		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jain flag • Siddhachakra • Ashtamangala <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shrivatsa ○ Nandavarta • Auspicious dreams • Swastika
Ascetics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digambara monk • Aryika • Kshullak • Pattavali • Acharya
Scholars		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nalini Balbir



- [Colette Caillat](#)
- [Chandabai](#)
- [John E. Cort](#)
- [Paul Dundas](#)
- [Virchand Gandhi](#)
- [Hermann Jacobi](#)
- [Champat Rai Jain](#)
- [Padmanabh Jaini](#)
- [Jeffery D. Long](#)
- [Hampa Nagarajaiah](#)
- [Claudia Pastorino](#)
- [Bal Patil](#)
- [Jinendra Varni](#)



[Community](#)

- [Śrāvaka](#)
- [Sarak](#)
- [Tamil](#)
- Organisations
 - [Digambar Jain Mahasabha](#)
 - [Vishwa Jain Sangathan](#)
 - [JAINA](#)



Jainism in



[India](#)

- [Bundelkhand](#)
- [Delhi](#)
- [Goa](#)
- [Gujarat](#)
- [Haryana](#)
- [Karnataka](#)
 - [North](#)
- [Kerala](#)
- [Maharashtra](#)
 - [Mumbai](#)
- [Rajasthan](#)
- [Uttar Pradesh](#)



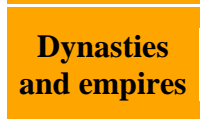
Overseas

- [Canada](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [United States](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [Hong Kong](#)
- [Pakistan](#)
- [Belgium](#)
- [Africa](#)
- [Southeast Asia](#)
- [Australia](#)





Jainism and

- [Buddhism](#)
- [Hinduism](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Sikhism](#)
- [Non-creationism](#)



Dynasties and empires

- [Ikshvaku](#)
- [Maurya](#)
- [Kalinga](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kadamba • Ganga • Chalukya • Rashtrakuta • Hoysala • Pandayan
Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Timeline • Pañca-Paramesthi • Pratima • Śalākāpurusa • Tirtha • Samavasarana • Jain calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Samvatsari • Panch Kalyanaka • Statue of Ahimsa • Temple • Sculpture • Art • Law • Nigoda • Jain terms and concepts • Sexual differences
Lists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of Jains • List of Jain temples • List of Jain ascetics • List of Digambar Jain ascetics • Topics List (index)
Navboxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gods • Literature • Monks & nuns • Scholars • Temples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ America ◦ Bengal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  Portal •  Commons •  Wikiquote •  Wikisource 	
<p>[hide]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v • t • e <p>Buddhism topics</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossary • Index • Outline 	

Foundations

- [Three Jewels](#)
 - [Buddha](#)
 - [Dharma](#)
 - [Sangha](#)
- [Four Noble Truths](#)
- [Noble Eightfold Path](#)
- [Nirvana](#)
- [Middle Way](#)

The Buddha

- [Tathāgata](#)
- [Birthday](#)
- [Four sights](#)
- [Physical characteristics](#)
- [Footprint](#)
- [Relics](#)
- [Iconography in Laos and Thailand](#)
- [Films](#)
- [Miracles](#)
- [Family](#)
 - [Suddhodāna \(father\)](#)
 - [Māyā \(mother\)](#)
 - [Mahapajapati Gotamī \(aunt, adoptive mother\)](#)
 - [Yasodhara \(wife\)](#)
 - [Rāhula \(son\)](#)
 - [Ānanda \(cousin\)](#)
 - [Devadatta \(cousin\)](#)
- [Places where the Buddha stayed](#)
- [Buddha in world religions](#)

Key concepts

- [Avidyā \(Ignorance\)](#)
- [Bardo](#)
- [Bodhicitta](#)
- [Bodhisattva](#)
- [Buddha-nature](#)
- [Dhamma theory](#)
- [Dharma](#)
- [Enlightenment](#)
- [Five hindrances](#)
- [Indriya](#)
- [Karma](#)
- [Kleshas](#)
- [Mind Stream](#)
- [Parinirvana](#)
- [Pratītyasamutpāda](#)
- [Rebirth](#)
- [Samsāra](#)
- [Saṅkhāra](#)
- [Skandha](#)
- [Śūnyatā](#)
- [Taṇhā \(Craving\)](#)
- [Tathātā](#)
- [Ten Fetters](#)
- [Three marks of existence](#)
 - [Impermanence](#)
 - [Dukkha](#)
 - [Anatta](#)

Cosmology

- [Two truths doctrine](#)
- [Ten spiritual realms](#)
- [Six realms](#)
 - [Heaven](#)
 - [Human realm](#)
 - [Asura realm](#)
 - [Hungry Ghost realm](#)
 - [Animal realm](#)
 - [Hell](#)
- [Three planes of existence](#)

Practices

- [Bhavana](#)
- [Bodhipakkhiyādhammā](#)
- [Brahmavihara](#)
 - [Mettā](#)
 - [Karunā](#)
 - [Mudita](#)
 - [Upekkha](#)
- [Dāna](#)
- [Devotion](#)
- [Dhyāna](#)
- [Faith](#)
- [Five Strengths](#)
- [Iddhipada](#)
- [Meditation](#)
 - [Mantras](#)
 - [Kammatthāna](#)
 - [Recollection](#)
 - [Smarana](#)
 - [Anapanasati](#)
 - [Samatha](#)
 - [Vipassanā \(Vipassana movement\)](#)
 - [Shikantaza](#)
 - [Zazen](#)
 - [Kōan](#)
 - [Mandala](#)
 - [Tonglen](#)
 - [Tantra](#)
 - [Tertön](#)
 - [Terma](#)
- [Merit](#)
- [Mindfulness](#)
 - [Satipatthana](#)
- [Nekkhamma](#)
- [Pāramitā](#)
- [Paritta](#)
- [Puja](#)
 - [Offerings](#)
 - [Prostration](#)
 - [Chanting](#)
- [Refuge](#)
- [Satya](#)
 - [Sacca](#)
- [Seven Factors of Enlightenment](#)
 - [Sati](#)
 - [Dhamma vicaya](#)

- [Pīti](#)
- [Passaddhi](#)
- [Śīla](#)
 - [Five Precepts](#)
 - [Bodhisattva vow](#)
 - [Prātimoksa](#)
- [Threefold Training](#)
 - [Śīla](#)
 - [Samadhi](#)
 - [Prajñā](#)
- [Vīrya](#)
 - [Four Right Exertions](#)

[Nirvana](#)

- [Bodhi](#)
- [Bodhisattva](#)
- [Buddhahood](#)
- [Pratyekabuddha](#)
- [Four stages of enlightenment](#)
 - [Sotāpanna](#)
 - [Sakadagami](#)
 - [Anāgāmi](#)
 - [Arhat](#)

[Monasticism](#)

- [Bhikkhu](#)
- [Bhikkhuni](#)
- [Śrāmanera](#)
- [Śrāmanerī](#)
- [Anagarika](#)
- [Ajahn](#)
- [Sayadaw](#)
- [Zen master](#)
- [Rōshi](#)
- [Lama](#)
- [Rinpoche](#)
- [Geshe](#)
- [Tulku](#)
- [Householder](#)
- [Upāsaka and Upāsikā](#)
- [Śrāvaka](#)
 - [The ten principal disciples](#)
- [Shaolin Monastery](#)

[Major figures](#)

- [Gautama Buddha](#)
- [Kaundinya](#)
- [Assaji](#)
- [Sāriputta](#)
- [Mahamoggallāna](#)
- [Mulian](#)
- [Ānanda](#)
- [Mahākassapa](#)
- [Anuruddha](#)
- [Mahākaccana](#)
- [Nanda](#)
- [Subhuti](#)
- [Punna](#)
- [Upali](#)
- [Mahapajapati Gotamī](#)

- [Khema](#)
- [Uppalavanna](#)
- [Asita](#)
- [Channa](#)
- [Yasa](#)
- [Buddhaghosa](#)
- [Nagasena](#)
- [Angulimala](#)
- [Bodhidharma](#)
- [Nagarjuna](#)
- [Asanga](#)
- [Vasubandhu](#)
- [Atiśa](#)
- [Padmasambhava](#)
- [Nichiren](#)
- [Songtsen Gampo](#)
- [Emperor Wen of Sui](#)
- [Dalai Lama](#)
- [Panchen Lama](#)
- [Karmapa](#)
- [Shamarpa](#)
- [Naropa](#)
- [Xuanzang](#)
- [Zhiyi](#)

Texts

- [Tripitaka](#)
- [Madhyamakālamkāra](#)
- [Mahayana sutras](#)
- [Pāli Canon](#)
- [Chinese Buddhist canon](#)
- [Tibetan Buddhist canon](#)

Branches

- [Theravada](#)
- [Mahayana](#)
 - [Chan Buddhism](#)
 - [Zen](#)
 - [Seon](#)
 - [Thiền](#)
 - [Pure Land](#)
 - [Tiantai](#)
 - [Nichiren](#)
 - [Madhyamaka](#)
 - [Yogachara](#)
- [Navayana](#)
- [Vajrayana](#)
 - [Tibetan](#)
 - [Shingon](#)
 - [Dzogchen](#)
- [Early Buddhist schools](#)
- [Pre-sectarian Buddhism](#)
- [Basic points unifying Theravāda and Mahāyāna](#)

Countries

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Bangladesh](#)
- [Bhutan](#)
- [Cambodia](#)
- [China](#)

History

- [India](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Korea](#)
- [Laos](#)
- [Malaysia](#)
- [Maldives](#)
- [Mongolia](#)
- [Myanmar](#)
- [Nepal](#)
- [Pakistan](#)
- [Philippines](#)
- [Russia](#)
 - [Kalmykia](#)
 - [Buryatia](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [Sri Lanka](#)
- [Taiwan](#)
- [Thailand](#)
- [Tibet](#)
- [Vietnam](#)
- [Middle East](#)
 - [Iran](#)
- [Western countries](#)
 - [Argentina](#)
 - [Australia](#)
 - [Brazil](#)
 - [France](#)
 - [United Kingdom](#)
 - [United States](#)
 - [Venezuela](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [Ashoka](#)
- [Buddhist councils](#)
- [History of Buddhism in India](#)
 - [Decline of Buddhism in India](#)
- [Great Anti-Buddhist Persecution](#)
- [Greco-Buddhism](#)
- [Buddhism and the Roman world](#)
- [Buddhism in the West](#)
- [Silk Road transmission of Buddhism](#)
- [Persecution of Buddhists](#)
- [Banishment of Buddhist monks from Nepal](#)
- [Buddhist crisis](#)
- [Sinhalese Buddhist nationalism](#)
- [Buddhist modernism](#)
- [Vipassana movement](#)
- [969 Movement](#)
- [Women in Buddhism](#)

Philosophy

- [Abhidharma](#)
- [Atomism](#)
- [Buddhology](#)
- [Creator](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Eight Consciousnesses](#)

Culture

- [Engaged Buddhism](#)
- [Eschatology](#)
- [Ethics](#)
- [Evolution](#)
- [Humanism](#)
- [Logic](#)
- [Reality](#)
- [Secular Buddhism](#)
- [Socialism](#)
- [The unanswered questions](#)

- [Architecture](#)
 - [Temple](#)
 - [Vihara](#)
 - [Wat](#)
 - [Stupa](#)
 - [Pagoda](#)
 - [Candi](#)
 - [Dzong architecture](#)
 - [Japanese Buddhist architecture](#)
 - [Korean Buddhist temples](#)
 - [Thai temple art and architecture](#)
 - [Tibetan Buddhist architecture](#)
- [Art](#)
 - [Greco-Buddhist](#)
- [Bodhi Tree](#)
- [Budai](#)
- [Buddharupa](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Cuisine](#)
- [Funeral](#)
- [Holidays](#)
 - [Vesak](#)
 - [Uposatha](#)
 - [Magha Puja](#)
 - [Asalha Puja](#)
 - [Vassa](#)
- [Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi](#)
- [Kasaya](#)
- [Mahabodhi Temple](#)
- [Mantra](#)
 - [Om mani padme hum](#)
- [Mudra](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Pilgrimage](#)
 - [Lumbini](#)
 - [Maya Devi Temple](#)
 - [Bodh Gaya](#)
 - [Sarnath](#)
 - [Kushinagar](#)
- [Poetry](#)
- [Prayer beads](#)
- [Prayer wheel](#)
- [Symbolism](#)
 - [Dharmachakra](#)
 - [Flag](#)
 - [Bhavacakra](#)
 - [Swastika](#)

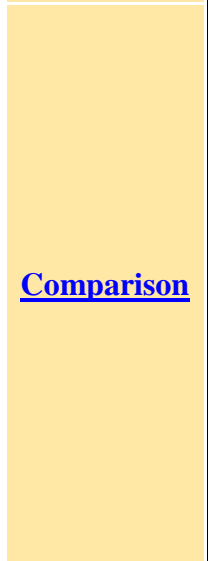


- [Thangka](#)
- [Temple of the Tooth](#)
- [Vegetarianism](#)



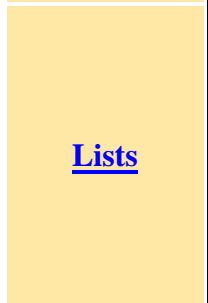
[Miscellaneous](#)

- [Abhijñā](#)
- [Amitābha](#)
- [Avalokiteśvara](#)
 - [Guanyin](#)
- [Brahmā](#)
- [Dhammapada](#)
- [Dharma talk](#)
- [Hinayana](#)
- [Kalpa](#)
- [Koliya](#)
- [Lineage](#)
- [Maitreya](#)
- [Māra](#)
- [Rddhi](#)
- [Sacred languages](#)
 - [Pali](#)
 - [Sanskrit](#)
- [Siddhi](#)
- [Sutra](#)
- [Vinaya](#)



[Comparison](#)

- [Bahá'í Faith](#)
- [Christianity](#)
 - [Influences](#)
 - [Comparison](#)
- [East Asian religions](#)
- [Gnosticism](#)
- [Hinduism](#)
- [Jainism](#)
- [Judaism](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Theosophy](#)
- [Violence](#)
- [Western philosophy](#)



[Lists](#)

- [Bodhisattvas](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Buddhas](#)
 - [named](#)
- [Buddhists](#)
- [Suttas](#)
- [Temples](#)



- [Category](#)
- [Portal](#)

[\[hide\]](#)

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

Nazism

Organizations

- [National Socialist German Workers' Party \(NSDAP\)](#)
- [Sturmabteilung \(SA\)](#)
- [Schutzstaffel \(SS\)](#)
- [Geheime Staatspolizei \(Gestapo\)](#)
- [Hitler Youth \(HJ\)](#)
- [National Socialist Flyers Corps \(NSFK\)](#)
- [National Socialist Motor Corps \(NSKK\)](#)
- [League of German Girls \(BDM\)](#)
- [National Socialist League of the Reich for Physical Exercise \(NSRL\)](#)
- [National Socialist Women's League \(NSF\)](#)
- [Reich Labour Service \(RAD\)](#)
- [Werwolf](#)

History

- [Early timeline](#)
- [Adolf Hitler's rise to power](#)
- [Machtergreifung](#)
- [Re-armament](#)
- [Nazi Germany](#)
- [Night of the Long Knives](#)
- [Nuremberg Rally](#)
- [Anti-Comintern Pact](#)
- [Kristallnacht](#)
- [World War II](#)
- [Tripartite Pact](#)
- [The Holocaust](#)
- [Nuremberg trials](#)
- [Denazification](#)
- [Consequences](#)

Ideology

- [Architecture](#)
- [Gleichschaltung](#)
- [Anti-democratic thought](#)
- [Strasserism](#)
- [Hitler's political views](#)
- [Mein Kampf \(Hitler\)](#)
- [Der Mythos des Zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts \(Rosenberg\)](#)
- [National Socialist Program](#)
- [New Order](#)
- [Preussentum und Sozialismus](#)
- [Propaganda](#)
- [Religious aspects](#)
- [Women in Nazi Germany](#)

Race

- [Blood and Soil](#)
- [Eugenics](#)
- [Greater Germanic Reich](#)
- [Heim ins Reich](#)
- [Lebensborn](#)
- [Master race](#)
- [Racial policy](#)
- [Religion](#)



Atrocities

- [Action T4](#)
- [Final Solution](#)
- [Human experimentation](#)
- [Porajmos](#)

- Nazism in the United States
 - [American Nazi Party](#)
 - [German American Bund](#)
 - [National Socialist Movement \(United States\)](#)
- [Arrow Cross Party \(Hungary\)](#)
- [Bulgarian National Socialist Workers Party](#)
- [German National Movement in Liechtenstein](#)
- [Greek National Socialist Party](#)
- [South African Gentile National Socialist Movement](#)
- [Hungarian National Socialist Party](#)
- [Nasjonal Samling \(Norway\)](#)
- [National Movement of Switzerland](#)
- [National Socialist Movement in the Netherlands](#)
- [National Socialist Bloc \(Sweden\)](#)
- [National Socialist League \(UK\)](#)
- [National Socialist Movement of Chile](#)
- [National Socialist Workers' Party of Denmark](#)
- [National Unity Party \(Canada\)](#)
- [Nationalist Liberation Alliance \(Argentina\)](#)
- [Nazism in Brazil](#)
- [Ossewabrandwag \(South Africa\)](#)
- [World Union of National Socialists](#)

Outside Germany

Lists

- [Books by or about Hitler](#)
- [Ideologues](#)
- [Leaders and officials](#)
- [Nazi Party members](#)
- [Speeches given by Hitler](#)
- [SS personnel](#)

People

- [Adolf Hitler](#)
- [Joseph Goebbels](#)
- [Heinrich Himmler](#)
- [Hermann Göring](#)
- [Martin Bormann](#)
- [Reinhard Heydrich](#)
- [Gregor Strasser](#)
- [Otto Strasser](#)
- [Albert Speer](#)
- [Rudolf Hess](#)
- [Ernst Kaltenbrunner](#)
- [Adolf Eichmann](#)
- [Joachim von Ribbentrop](#)
- [Houston Stewart Chamberlain](#)
- [Alfred Rosenberg](#)
- [Wilhelm Frick](#)
- [Hans Frank](#)
- [Rudolf Höss](#)
- [Josef Mengele](#)
- [Richard Walther Darré](#)
- [Baldur von Schirach](#)
- [Artur Axmann](#)

Related topics

- [Ernst Röhm](#)
- [Dietrich Eckart](#)
- [Gottfried Feder](#)
- [Ernst Hanfstaengl](#)
- [Julius Streicher](#)
- [Hermann Esser](#)
- [George Lincoln Rockwell](#)

- [Esoteric Nazism](#)
- [Far-right politics](#)
- [German resistance](#)
- [Glossary of Nazi Germany](#)
- [Nazi salute](#)
- [Neo-Nazism](#)
- [Social Darwinism](#)
- [Stormfront](#)
- [Swastika](#)
- [Völkisch movement](#)
- [Zweites Buch](#)

-  [Category](#)

Categories:

- [Swastika](#)
- [Cross symbols](#)
- [Crosses in heraldry](#)
- [Jain symbols](#)
- [Nazi symbolism](#)
- [Religious symbols](#)
- [Superstitions of India](#)
- [Symbolism](#)
- [Symbols of Indian religions](#)
- [Hindu symbols](#)
- [Symbols of Nazi Germany](#)
- [Talismans](#)